Hafa Adai!

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USCIS: CW-1 cap met

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Thousands of foreign workers in the CNMI woke up to news yesterday that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reached the limit of 4,999 CW-1 permits allowed in fiscal year 2019.

In an early morning announcement yesterday, USCIS said the cap for CW permits for fiscal year 2019 was breached last April 15, 2018, with the agency using a lottery—a computer-generated random selection process—to select enough petitions to meet the fiscal year 2019 cap of 4,999.

» 'This announcement is disastrous'

According to the same announcement, USCIS would be returning unselected

See USCIS on Page 4

Bill punishing owners of blighted properties OK'd

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Saipan local measure that would hold owners of blighted properties responsible now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed it after hours of discussion and four amendments Monday.

The original intent of House Local Bill 20-14, according to author Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), was to rid Saipan of "eyesore" buildings that are blighted and home to criminal activities and breeding ground for pests.

However, according to Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), the bill

See BILL on Page 4

COTA to expand routes by end of 2018

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority plans to expand its current bus route, which right now runs from the Northern Marianas College to Middle Road, to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in Garapan.

Speaking last Wednesday during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce

See COTA on Page 4

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority community planner Diego B. Songsong speaks at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Wednesday.

BEA CABRERA

We Drank Our Tears series continues

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas hosted a successful premiere of the continuation of the *We Drank Our Tears* series at the Regal Theaters in San Jose.

The first installment, which focused on Francisco Babauta's story during World War II on Saipan, debuted back in October 2017, as hosted by MCS principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero. He originally intended for the short film to screen at the annual

See SERIES on Page 4

CAREER FAIR
This file photo shows the Northern Marianas College Career Fair last year. NMC's Annual Career Fair is happening today, Friday, May 4, 2018, from 9am to 12pm, at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom. More than 50 companies confirmed their participation at the fair and will be looking to hire.

See story on Page 2

INSIDE

LOCAL
Japanese food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi will join the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

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WORLD
The Basque separatist group ETA said it has dismantled its organizational structure.

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LIFE & STYLE
Peppa Pig has become an unlikely target of China's censors.

PAGE 24

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Local

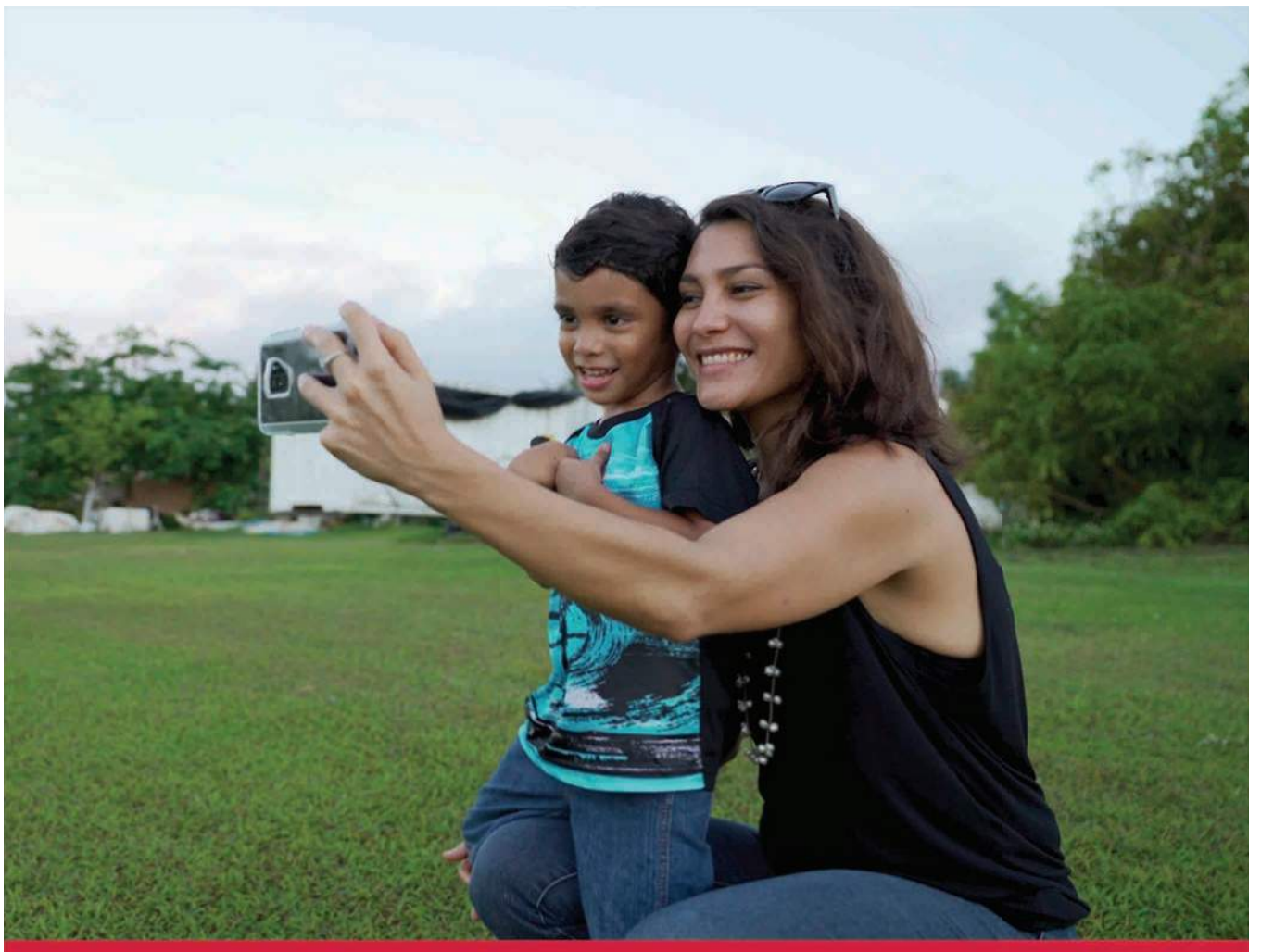
NMC Career Fair today

Employment opportunities and career information will be available at Northern Marianas College's annual Career Fair today, Friday, May 4, 2018., at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom from 9am to 12pm. The fair is free and open to the public.

More than 50 companies confirmed their participation at the fair and will be looking to hire. These companies include Ace Professional Corp., Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., Century Tours Inc., Cha, Civil Service Commission-Office of Personnel Management, CNMI Public School System, CNMI Scholarship Office, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Community and Cultural Affairs- Division of Youth Services, Delta Management Corp., Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Lands, DFS Saipan, Department of Homeland Security-U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Labor-Workforce Investment Agency Division, Ete Cafe, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, G4S, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Other participants include IHOP Saipan, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, Joeten Ent. Inc., Joeten Motor Co., Kalayaan Inc., Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, LSG Sky Chefs, Marianas Aviation Services, Marianas Medical Center, Marianas Pacific Distributors, *Marianas Variety*, Marianas Visiting Nurses, Marianas Young Professionals, Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control Inc., Northern Marianas College Human Resources, Office of Personnel Management, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pacific Rim Land Development, Pacific Trading Co., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Paradise Dental Spa, POI Aviation, PSG Professional Corp., Quality Water Laboratory, Saipan Cares for Animals, Saipan World Resort, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program, Sorensen Media Group, and Triple J Saipan Inc.

For more information about NMC Career Services contact Neda Deleon Guerrero at 237-6759 or neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu or visit-www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***



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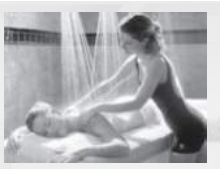

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'DOC addressed situation of detained former Beilida staff'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Corrections has already addressed the situation of a former staff of Beilida Nanjing Corp. who has reportedly been experiencing severe anxiety and depression in the wake of her arrest and detention, according to Steven P. Pixley.

Pixley also informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that 46-year-old Xiufang Qi wishes to continue serving her time at DOC pending her sentencing.

The lawyer did not elaborate.

Pixley earlier disclosed that he met last week with Georgia Cabrera, the acting DOC commissioner, who he said expressed concerns about Qi after receiving her medical records.

Pixley asked the court to withdraw Qi's motion for release from custody at DOC pending the sentencing hearing in her case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy has granted Qi's request to withdraw.

Kennedy said the motion for release from custody is denied as moot.

Qi, a Chinese national, had already pleaded guilty to supervising illegal Chinese workers of a company engaged in the construction of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino and resort in Garapan.

In Qi's motion for release filed last week, Pixley disclosed that Qi has been treated at the Commonwealth Health Center on multiple occasions since Oct. 16, 2017.

Pixley said that his client was again brought to CHC last week and referred for therapy because of her severe anxiety and depression.

Qi's sentencing was continued from April 27 to June 1, 2018. Last Oct. 13, she entered a plea of guilty to an indictment charging her with harboring illegal aliens.

At the change of plea hearing, Qi asked the court to allow her to self-surrender so that she could obtain credit toward her sentencing. She began serving time at DOC last Oct. 16.

Prior to her arrest on April 5, 2017, Qi was employed by Beilida Nanjing Corp. which was engaged in construction activities at the Imperial Pacific Resort/Casino in Garapan.

According to the plea agreement, between Feb. 7, 2017 and March 22, 2017, Qi supervised a large number of aliens working at the Best Sunshine casino and resort/hotel construction site.

Voters who did not vote in 2 successive elections must re-register

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez said yesterday that registered voters who failed to cast their votes both in the 2014 and 2016 elections should register again.

If voters failed to vote in two consecutive elections, they need to come in at CEC in Susupe to re-register again, Villagomez said. Otherwise, they won't be able to vote in the upcoming Nov. 6 general election.

Villagomez said those from Tinian and Rota with the same situation can contact their CEC commissioners, who can assist them in the re-registration.

Those voters need to just bring their identification card. Villagomez said re-registration will just take a few minutes.

CEC administrative officer Kayla S. Igitol also reminded yesterday those registered voters who changed their names or those who moved to other precincts that they should go to CEC and update their information. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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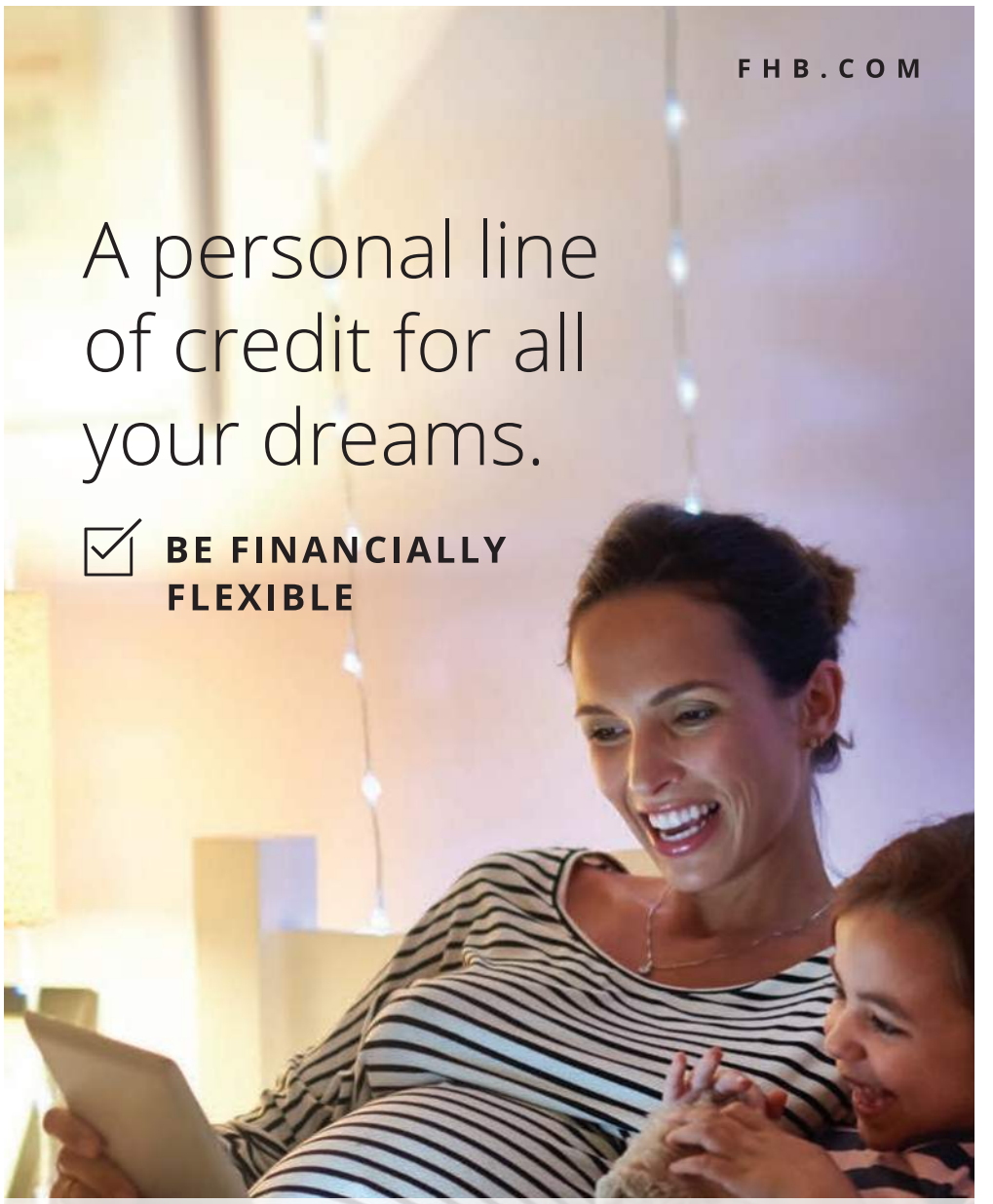

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Saipan-based church extends help to Rota

The medical mission hosted by a Saipan-based church provided services to over 100 Rota residents as part of its Good Hands Ministry.

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch hosted a medical mission on Rota last Saturday, April 28.

The purpose of the medical mission is to serve the Rota community and advocate for healthy living while also sharing personal testimonies.

According to PMCC's head minister Claire Javillionar, the medical mission reached out to 132 Rota community members.

Louis Mesa of Marianas Referral Office was touched by the passion to help, saying even just a haircut means a lot.

Joel Charfauros, a retired police officer, said the community of Rota appreciates the kind gesture.

The services offered during the medical mission include haircuts, blood sugar check and blood pressure check, facial cleansing, and body massage.

The PMCC church also distributed 377 items that include tissues, soap, hand sanitizers, alcohol, towels, toothbrushes, eyeglasses, and more.

The volunteers who participated in the medical mission were from the PMCC church. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

COTA

From Page 1

meeting at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan, COTA community planner Diego B. Songsong disclosed plans to expand the route, called Flame Tree Line #1A, which was activated just last month.

The expansion, to be called Flame Tree Line #1B and called COTA's "core route," will have COTA buses running the NMC-As Lito-Koblerville route.

Other routes planned include Route#2: As Matuis-San Roque-Tanapag-Garapan; Route #3: Kagman-Capitol Hill-Navy Hill-Garapan; and Route #4: Kagman-San Vicente-Dandan-NMC.

Transfer points will be Paseo de Marianas, Northern Marianas College, and Kagman market.

COTA was created in May 27, 2011, to address the growing need for public transportation in the CNMI.

"We started with a public transportation system called demand response…it is a shared, accessible curb-to-curb service, available on a first-come, first-served basis wherein riders called for reservation one or two days ahead in order to arrange transportation destination in any location where roads are accessible for vehicles and taken to places such as shopping centers, banking facilities, recreational centers, healthcare facilities, community centers, place of enjoyment, the seaport and the airport," he said.

The fixed route was activated on April 9, servicing the NMC-Middle Road-CHC-Garapan route. It runs every two hours and uses a low-floor, medium-duty bus, fully ADA accessible and with a wheelchair ramp, and is capable of 22 passengers and two wheelchairs.

Songsong said the development of the second route became possible when they secured $344,000 in U.S. Department of Interior TAP Grant.

"This will help us procure medium-duty buses and to cover operational and personnel expenses for COTA's Fixed Route Flame Tree Line #1A and #1B. This is will compliment the already serviced route Flame Tree Line #1A, which was activated early this month," he added.

According to Songsong, other developments in the COTA pipeline include completion of the architectural and engineering design for the COTA building and maintenance facility in 2016 and the construction of the bus stop infrastructure (bus stop signage and ADA landing pad) for the Flame Tree #1A and #1B (core route).

Songsong said travel fares vary between the Fixed Route and the Demand Response public transporation service.

"For fixed routes, it's $2 for the general public that includes adults and youths ages 12 and up, $1 for youths ages 11 and below, and no charge for senior citizens, veterans, people with disabilities, infants ages 3 and below. For demand response, it's $5 for the general public that includes adults and youths ages 4 and up, $3 for senior citizens and veterans, and no charge for people with disabilities and infants ages 3 and below," he added.

Bridge Capital LLC chief operations officer Tucker Baldwin said that having a public transportation system is akin to sharing resources.

"This will definitely help people to go to their place of [work], to the place they need to go and shop or to go to other community resources they need," he added.

SDA School principal Randy Yates said it will be a great help if parents and students are able to take advantage of it.

"We do have a number of students that come to us from Garapan and Chinatown area. …To me, it would be very-cost effective because the fare is only a dollar for a student to travel and this lifts the burden of taking care of the traffic, gas and parking."

SERIES

From Page 1

The Abadilla family poses for a photo during the *We Drank Our Tears* premiere last Wednesday at the Regal Cinema Saipan Megaplex.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Guam Film Festival but, due to its success, Deleon Guerrero and his team decided to produce two more installments, which premiered last Wednesday.

The first series premiere was held at the American Memorial Park Theater, free of charge, but the premiere on Wednesday was held at the Regal Cinema Saipan Megaplex for $10 a ticket.

The tickets to the premiere were sold out within minutes and over 150 people came to see the film.

Last Wednesday, the two installments focused on the tales of Benjamin Abadilla and Rafael Mafnas as written in *We Drank Our Tears*. During the premiere, family members of Abadilla and Mafnas were present to see the stories of their loved one come to life.

According to Abadilla's daughter, Judy Abadilla Santos, it was amazing to witness her father's story come to life on the big screen. Santos said she was shocked and touched when Deleon Guerrero reached out to her and her family and asked them to participate in the premiere.

Abadilla's story was actually set in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded. The short film produced by MCS was inspired by Abadilla's story but was set in the Marianas.

Benjamin Abadilla's story features Dylan Santos as Benjamin, Aysia Adele Duenas Santos as his mother, Martha, Kalea Borja as his aunt, Mariana, and Jeremiah Diaz as his father, Ramon. The cast also includes Mark Toves as the older Benjamin, Joaquin C. Duenas as the older Ramon, and Joyce C. Santos as an older version of Benjamin's sister.

Rafael Mafnas' story features Derrick Atalig as Rafael, Matt Moran as his friend Juan, Seok Jun Run as Takeda, a Japanese soldier, Eric Kiser as Mike, an American soldier, and Rodrigo Castro as the older Rafael.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the two new installments will be entered in this year's Guam Film Festival in October.

Both films shared a crew, with Quincy Chinen as the unit production manager, Kelvin Cepeda as the first assistant director, Reica Ramirez as script supervisor, Victoria Deleon Guerrero and Joani Paraiso as production designers, and Alvin Palacios as lead cameraman. The crew also included Aldwin Batusin and Ivy Leong assisting with production design, Kyle Bautista operating the boom microphone, and Maverick Irang serving as the crew grip.

BILL

From Page 1

did not indicate government-owned blighted properties.

"We have a lot of government buildings on government property, where rats are infesting [and] criminal activities are happening on these public government structures. It [was] somewhat unclear," said Dela Cruz during discussions on Monday. The bill was then amended to include blighted government properties and government-owned facilities on public lands.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) included amendments to also encompass blighted properties on tourist areas and industrial areas along primary roads within Saipan.

"…The author's intent is really to make sure properties are clean. It affects our economy, our tourists and visitors," said Deleon Guerrero. "…I want to support this bill and let the Commonwealth Zoning Board work with [this]. If it needs further tweaking, we can add in secondary roads and so forth," he said, adding that the bill does not include rural properties.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) noticed a grammatical error in the legislation, where the word "days" was unintentionally omitted from the bill in a provision that allows the Zoning administrator to issue warning notices to violators of the legislation after 60 days.

Rep. Blas "BJ" Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) thought the public needs to be educated first about the bill and allowed to take the initiative to fix their properties. The fourth and last amendment to H.B. 20-14 was to allow the enforcement of H.B. 20-14 a year after its enactment to provide residents with time to prepare.

The delegation voted unanimously to pass the legislation at 19-0, with two members absent.

Most abandoned and blighted properties on Saipan are remnants of the once-flourishing garment industry.

USCIS

From Page 1

CW permit applications to employees. They are now considered rejected.

The low cap for fiscal year 2019 for CW-1 permits was filled through lottery after USCIS stated in a previous announcement that it had received enough permit applications to meet the cap.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) described this development as "unnecessary" as there is currently a bill being considered in Congress that would raise the cap.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh was more blunt, calling the news "disastrous."

"Today's announcement is disastrous. It should never [have] come to this. The economy that we enjoy today is only a few years old," said Cavanagh.

She agreed that HANMI hotel-members may have less than 1,000 CW-1 workers, but the businesses in the CNMI—the backbone of the economy—has a lot of foreign workers it relies on.

"Without the auxiliary services, the CNMI cannot provide services to our tourists," she said.

She also indicated that HANMI was the first organization to support the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., a separate organization that supported the passage of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) S. 2325, a measure seeking to reset the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000; provide three-year permit validity to long-time CW workers; and extend the CNMI transitional period, along with programs under it such as the CW program and the E-2C investor program, to fiscal year 2029.

"Our only hope is for S. 2325 to pass quickly and [get enacted]," she said.

In a separate statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan pointed out that one of the healthcare providers on the island had only about 15 percent of their CW applications approved. He declined to disclose specifics.

"The Trump administration set the CW cap at 4,999 for the coming year, which was totally unnecessary and very harmful to the economy and the people of the Marianas," said Sablan, adding that he has informed the Trump administration "every step of the way" of the consequences of cutting the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to 4,999.

"…But the Trump administration does not seem to understand how harmful a cut to 4,999 is to the Marianas, or how unnecessary, with 13,000 permits on the way," he said.

In a presentation to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday, Sablan said he would be working on getting S. 2325 through the U.S. House of Representatives as soon as possible.

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed S. 2325 in a voice vote last April 24, 2018.

"…I am optimistic that the U.S. Workforce Act [S. 2325] will pass when Congress is back in session, and I am optimistic that President Donald J. Trump will sign our bill into law," said Sablan.

Cavanagh said that, without S. 2325, the CNMI economy will "scale back to levels below any year that we have experienced."

"Doing business in the CNMI is very difficult. Access to a secure labor force and limited lease opportunities should make us realize a new appreciation for our long-term investors. We hope for good news soon on S. 2325 and [a local bill extending the maximum lease terms with the Department of Public Lands]," she said.

"Without both of these, we must [be prepared] to endure as a welfare state," she added.

Scheduled power interruptions on May 8

There will be scheduled power interruptions on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, affecting Tanapag and San Roque villages:

- 7am to 11am: Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Tanapag
- 7am to 11am: Haraw Street in Tanapag
- 3:30pm to 7:30pm: Haraw Street in Tanapag
- 3:30pm to 7:30pm: Tanapag Elementary School
- 3:30pm to 7:30pm: San Roque Elementary School

No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

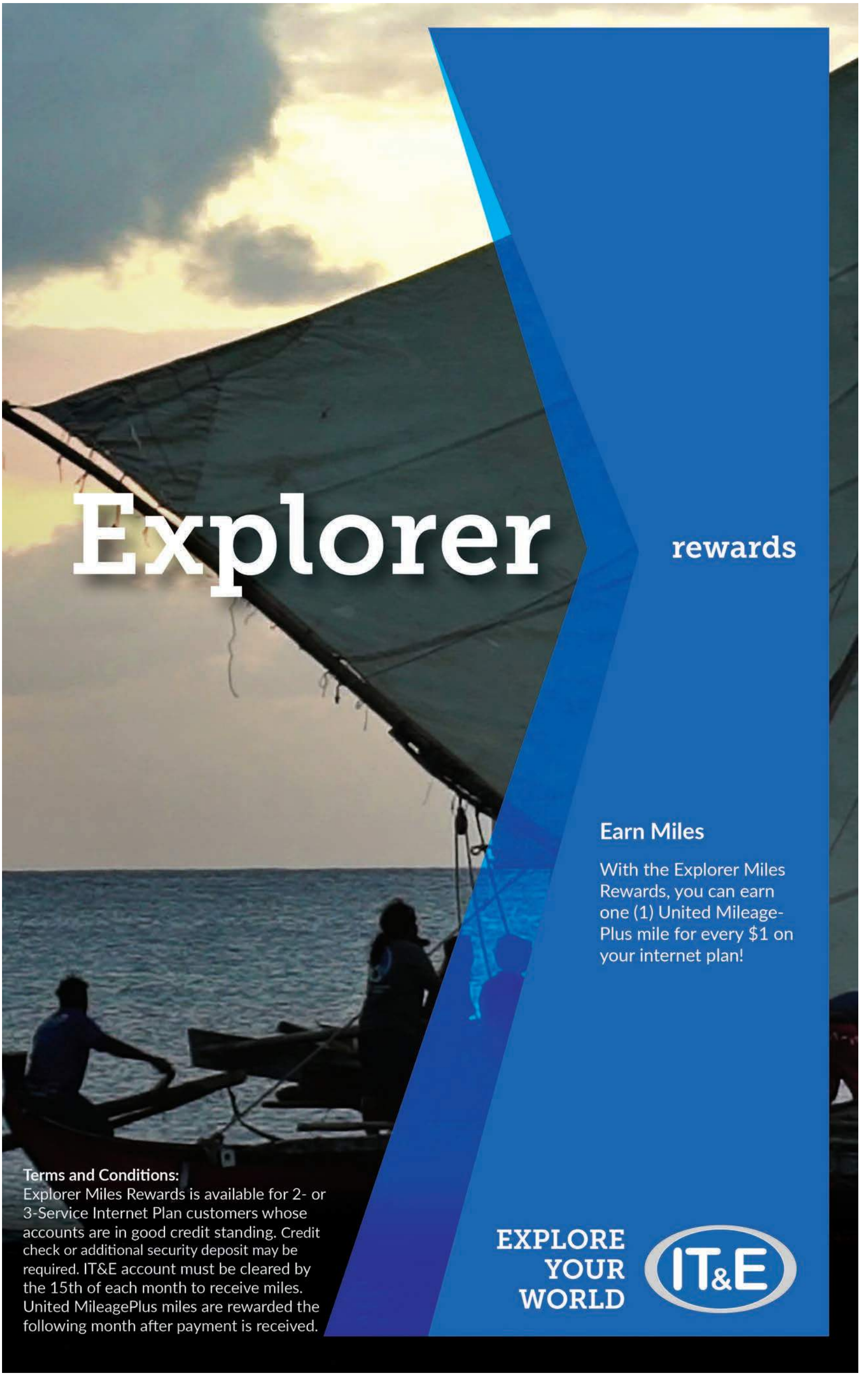
The purpose of the power interruptions is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. contractor, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace six wooden power poles along the Feeder 7 distribution circuit in Tanapag and in San Roque.

The project task is a component of CUC's Hazard Mitigation Project that entails the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles around Saipan.

Primary Source Electric will be replacing a total of 374 wooden poles with concrete poles around Saipan.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor the CUC Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.coml-CommonwealthUtilities-Corporationl). ***(PR)***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Volunteers sought to help install smoke alarms

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is seeking people to volunteer their time and help save lives at the "Sound the Alarm" home fire safety and smoke alarm installation event on May 12, 2018, from 8am to 12pm.

"'Sound the Alarm' on Saipan and be part of the nationwide Red Cross effort to help reduce the number of deaths and injuries from home fires," said J.D. Tenorio, disaster program manager "By volunteering with the Red Cross, someone can truly make a difference in someone's life. Please join us and help 'Sound the Alarm' by volunteering on May 12, 2018."

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross at (670) 234-3459 or visit the "Sound the Alarm" information on redcross.org.

The Red Cross responds to nearly 64,000 disasters a year, the majority of which are home fires. Working smoke alarms in a home cut the risk of death by half and having an escape plan further improves the odds of survival. The Red Cross launched the Home Fire Campaign in 2014 to end these tragedies and save lives.

Here in CNMI, the Red Cross has installed a total of 516 smoke alarms, making 253 homes safer. If you would like to avail of the free smoke alarms, call the chapter at 234-3459 or send an email to nmi-chapter@redcross.org.

To learn more about the Home Fire Campaign, visit redcross.org. ***(PR)***

May intended to promote women's health

Women usually have a harder time detecting health issues within themselves so the entire month of May has been designated to promoting women's health.

During the Women's Health Month proclamation signing, Margarita Torres-Aldan, Division of Public Health Services director, said it is important to promote women's health because, in the current generation, women hold titles equivalent or even higher than their male counterparts, along with their roles as mothers and as wives. With this much responsibility, women tend to forget to take care of their mental and physical health.

"We are everywhere, that is why we are great caretakers of our loved ones…but we are not great caretakers of ourselves and we really need to start doing that. …When we take care of ourselves, that means everybody else will be kept healthy," she said.

According to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, free screening is offered at the Commonwealth Health Center so the initiative to get checked for any health issues should begin with women, which ties along with this year's Women's Health Month theme, "Begins With Me."

Throughout the month, the Women's Health Month committee has prepared event s and activities to encourage healthy living in women.

Today, Friday, the WHM committee will host a health outreach at the Nutritional Assistance Program office from 9am to 11:30am.

On Saturday, May 5, the WHM committee will host the 5K Walk, Roll, Run for Moms. The event will start at the Minachom Atdao. Registration will be at 6am and the walk will begin at 6:30am.

From May 7 to May 11, the WHM committee will host the Breastfeeding Boot Camp at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 8am to 5pm.

On May 16, May 23, and May 30 catch the WHM committee will be on the radio from 7:30am to 8:30am to discuss preventive care, gestational diabetes, tobacco use, healthy habits, physical activities, and more.

On May 17, May 25, and May 31 WHM will host a Village Health Outreach from 8:30am to 12pm.

On May 25, WHM will host the first Mom and Me talent show from 6pm to 9pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Activities, dates, and times are subject to change. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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NMTI Northern Marianas Trades Institute Building Skills for a Lifetime

Rotary donates $1,500 to Wolfe duo

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan donated $1,500 to Dandan Middle School's young talents, Lars Anthony and Jonathan Wolfe.

The Wolfe brothers will be representing the CNMI at the upcoming National Junior Speech and Debate Association national tournament, and the upcoming Thespian national tournament.

A few months back, the Wolfe duo bested competitors from various public and private middle schools in the NJSDA Regional championship and the Thespian Regional championships under the duo category. The duo placed first in both competitions.

Last Tuesday, the two were invited to perform a piece before the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni restaurant.

The two performed an intense five-minute excerpt from the play *Murder in the First*. The Rotarians were so impressed with the performance that they decided to donate to the Wolfe duo for their competition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this June.

"I'm really thankful, we both are. It's very hard to go there if you have absolutely no one donating to you…it's going to be hard because you don't have enough money, so we're really thankful that they gave us the donation. It's going to make everything easier for us and we will surely put it to good use," said Jonathan Wolfe.

"I really like how they support us and I like how they are happy about us going out and representing the CNMI…for that, I am going to push myself to make sure that we put on a good [show]," said Lars Wolfe.

According to Jonathan Wolfe, they started acting back when they were in elementary. "Our aunt was the one that got us into this… we didn't know about the competition until she told us about it," he said.

The two will be performing in the NJSDA national tournament from June 18 to 22 and then they will perform in the Thespian national tournament from June 25 to 30.

Kilili responds to food stamp increase

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued the following statement yesterday to the announcement that the CNMI is raising food stamp benefits to equal or exceed benefits provided in Guam through SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:

"Making sure the $30.5 million that I got for the Marianas in Section 4031 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 was quickly put to use feeding families has always been my goal. Seeing that money unused, when I know we have hungry children, was unacceptable to me.

"I congratulate Commonwealth officials who have now made the decision to use the Agricultural Act funding much more aggressively to address the problem of hunger in our islands.

"I remain in close consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to monitor this spending." ***(PR)***

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The Hut Burrito Challenge on May 5 at 'Taste'

Can you eat a 5-lb burrito? Can you be the fastest of five people to do so in under 20 minutes?

Those are the questions to be answered at this Saturday's opening night of the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at American Memorial Park.

The Hut Burrito Challenge will task adult competitors to be the first to finish a whooping burrito of tortilla, cheese, sour cream, guacamole, salsa, beef, pork, and/or chicken.

If any contender is able to complete the challenge, the grand prize will be a Samsung S7 from IT&E and $50 in Taste tokens. It will be a "winner takes all" challenge.

Participants must register at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose by 4pm today, May 4.

The Taste of the Marianas is an annual signature event of the MVA held every Saturday evening from 5:30pm to 10pm (closing at 11pm on the final night) during May Tourism Month at American Memorial Park in Garapan. Saturday's opening ceremony will be held at 5:15pm.

"We are looking forward to welcoming our visitors and the community for another great Taste of the Marianas this month," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. ""Taste' is one the most highly-anticipated festivals of the year, and we continue to work to make it more enjoyable year after year. If you have not yet been to Taste, make this your year!"

Japan's famous female food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi will join the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2018, taking on all local and international challengers in the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition. Applications are available at the MVA office on Beach Road in San Jose. Masubuchi is a famed competitive eater and holds numerous records in Japan. She is well-known in Japan as a TV personality, model, actress, and a beauty contestant.

Participating food vendors will be Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Furusato Restaurant, Kinpachi Restaurant, Matty's BBQ, D'Elegance Restaurant, The Hut, Herman's Modern Bakery, Thai House, Terry's Snack Bar, Sierra Pearl Shake, and Tropical Chills. Participating drink vendors will be MarPac, Pacific Trading Co., and Saipan Brewing Co. ***(MVA)***

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Members of Mount Carmel School's Concert Band rehearse for their Spring Band Concert under the direction of conductor Julia Greening, far left. MCS

MCS Concert Band to hold first concert

Mount Carmel School is inviting the community to its Spring Band Concert tonight, Friday, May 4, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, starting at 6pm. The concert will feature the school's concert band, conducted by Julian Greening, and the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, conducted by Atsuko Eck.

Greening is very excited about the concert. "The audience should expect the joy of music," he said, "especially for parents and guardians of band students. They will see how much their kids have improved throughout this year because they worked so hard."

The school revived its band this school year after working for two years to build a budget to fund the teaching position and start-up costs for the program. While the program has featured student performances in various shows throughout the year, the Spring Band Concert will serve as the program's first official performance since starting in August of last year.

Reviving the program has not been easy, though. As Greening put it, "Starting from scratch was difficult because of equipment problems such as non-working instruments and having no stands." Fortunately, the school supported the program. "With the support of school administration, I was able to begin band practices in a suitable condition."

Despite this rough start, the music program has been a positive experience for its students.

Fifth-grade student Malina Tenorio said, "It's hard, but it's really fun. Mr. Greening is strict but positive. I've enjoyed everyone in the band." For the upcoming concert, Tenorio looks forward to performing Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* in an ensemble.

Greening has been very happy with the progress of the students. "I was very amazed to see many talented musicians at Mount Carmel School and I am very happy to work with all the students here. I am looking forward teaching next school year and see how they develop."

Admission for Mount Carmel School's Spring Band Concert will be free of charge. Doors for the show will open at 5:30pm. ***(PR)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meeting for farmers/producers

There will be a farmers/producers meeting on May 15, at 9am at the Kagman Agriculture Station to discuss the upcoming 31st Agriculture Fair. All farmers and producers who wish to participate in the fair must register their names and plants/animals to display. We will be issuing out a registration form during this meeting. Also, farmers will be asked to select amongst themselves who will participate in the Agriculture Fair Committee. They will be selecting officers for president, vice president, and secretary/ treasurer. ***(PR)***

Reunion meeting for MHS Class of '88

All graduates of MHS Class of '88 will be having their final meeting on May 14, 2018, to discuss their 30th year class reunion for June 29, 2018. Meeting location will be at Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cepeda's residence in As Lito at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Eleanor Cepeda through MHS Class of 88 WhatsApp group. ***(PR)***

Friends of the Arts to stage *Into the Woods*

The Friends of the Arts last play of the season is the musical *Into the Woods*. The musical will be performed on May 9, 10, and 11, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. All shows starting at 7pm. Tickets prices for all three shows start at $4 for students, $6 for FOA members, and $8 for adults and half-price for all moms! You may purchase tickets at Bridge Capital at their front desk and from members of the play's cast. For more information or ticket reservations, contact Frank Gibson through email atflgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Registration open for 2018 Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 18th Annual Corporate Challenge on May 27, 2018 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe and is now accepting teams for registration. Aside from team building, the event aims to raise funds for the SCC Education Scholarships and similar programs. Deadline for registration is on May 11, 2018, at 5pm. Slots are limited to the first 14 registered teams. For more information, call 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting federation to hold fundraiser

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold its 1st Sports Fundraising event on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at the Roundhouse, Garapan Central Park, from 8am to 2pm. There will be food, drinks, books, arts, crafts, clothes and many other items for sale. The event is being planned to become an annual fundraiser. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018. The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018. Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Environmental Champion Award, Environmental Heroes Award, Green Business of the Year. Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com, or mail to MINA, P.O. Box 506645, Saipan MP 96950. You may also deliver your nominations at MINA's office located on the ground floor of Gualo Rai Center. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***

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High court affirms man's convictions

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the trial court's judgment finding Ramon C. Blas guilty of criminal trespass, disturbing the peace, theft, and burglary in its opinion issued last April 30.

On two occasions, Blas invaded the home of a married couple in San Vicente. During his first trespass, the wife saw Blas on her balcony when she was alone. On the second occasion, the couple saw him leaving their home as they came back from a shopping trip. Upon entering, they found the balcony door broken and over $20,000 worth of jewelry and other valuables missing. During trial, the CNMI sought to introduce evidence of Blas' involvement in another burglary in the same area only a couple months earlier. The evidence was admitted over Blas' arguments that the notice of the other burglary was untimely and substantively deficient and that the evidence itself was inadmissible and unfairly prejudicial.

The Supreme Court reviewed Blas' convictions. It considered Blas' claims that evidence of his involvement in another burglary was wrongfully admitted as well as that parts of a detective's testimony violated his right to confront witnesses under the United States and NMI Constitutions. The court found that because the evidence of Blas' involvement in another burglary was: 1) timely; 2) sufficiently specific; 3) indicative of Blas' identity as the burglar; and 4) not unfairly prejudicial, the trial court was reasonable in admitting it. Next, the high court considered whether Blas' right to confront witnesses against him was violated when a detective testified about other witnesses' statements. It agreed with both Blas and the Commonwealth that his right had indeed been violated. However, under the harmless error doctrine, the court found that even without the detective's wrongfully admitted statements, multiple other damaging pieces of evidence against Blas supported his conviction beyond a reasonable doubt.

As a result, the court affirmed Blas' convictions. ***(PR)***

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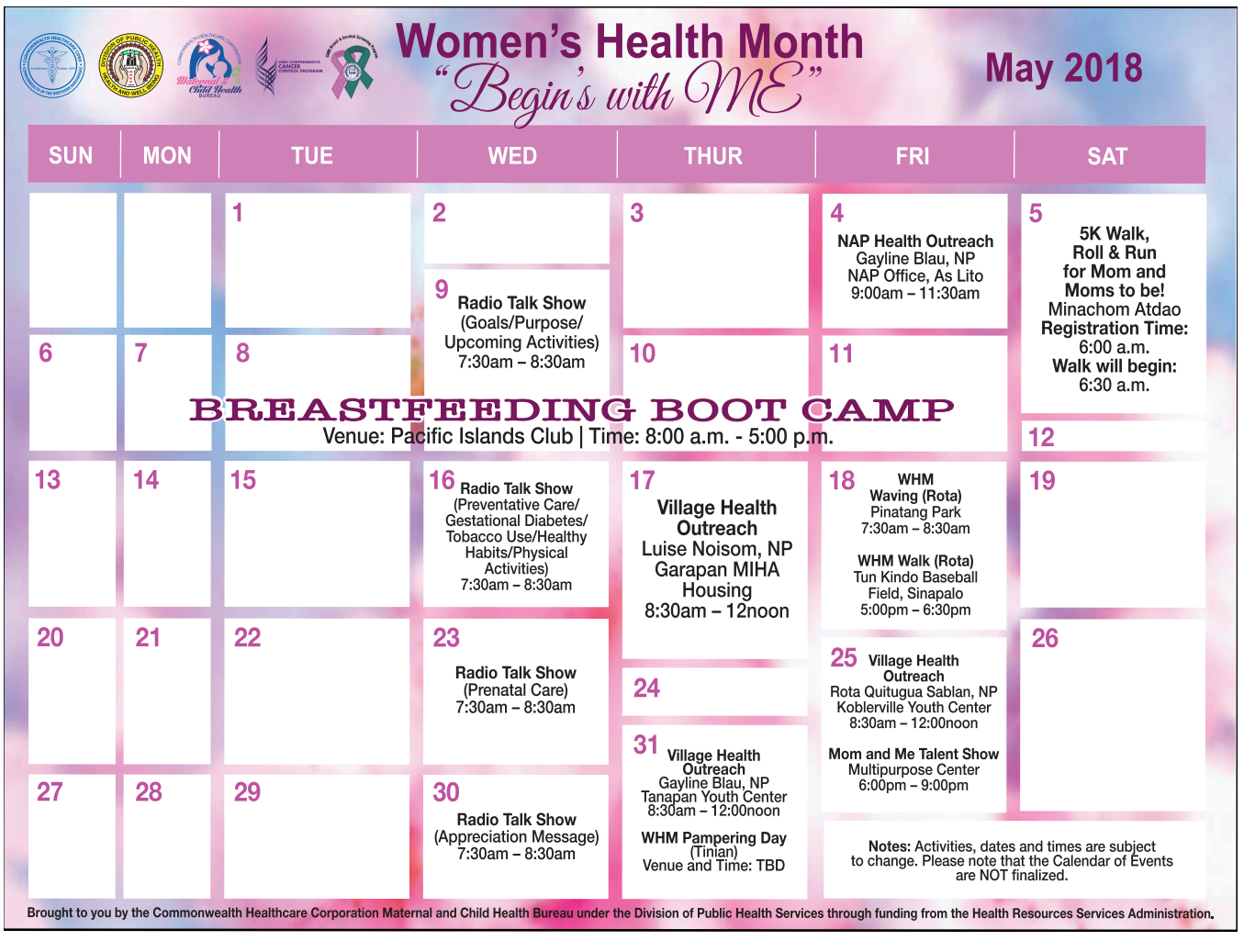
In "Insta-Post It," we encourage readers to send in their Instagram photos for publication, whether it's a wedding, baptism, birthday, or Christening. Wouldn't it be awesome to have your milestone featured and memorialized by the new magazine? Preserve a copy of the moment by having the magazine post it.


Women's Health Month
"Begin's with ME"
May 2018
SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT
1
2
9 Radio Talk Show (Goals/Purpose/ Upcoming Activities) 7:30am – 8:30am
3
4 NAP Health Outreach Gayline Blau, NP NAP Office, As Lito 9:00am – 11:30am
5 5K Walk, Roll & Run for Mom and Moms to be! Minachom Atdao Registration Time: 6:00 a.m. Walk will begin: 6:30 a.m.
6 7 8
10
11
12
BREASTFEEDING BOOT CAMP
Venue: Pacific Islands Club | Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
13 14 15
16 Radio Talk Show (Preventative Care/ Gestational Diabetes/ Tobacco Use/Healthy Habits/Physical Activities) 7:30am – 8:30am
17 Village Health Outreach Luise Noisom, NP Garapan MIHA Housing 8:30am – 12noon
18 WHM Waving (Rota) Pinatang Park 7:30am – 8:30am
WHM Walk (Rota) Tun Kindo Baseball Field, Sinapalo 5:00pm – 6:30pm
19
20 21 22
23 Radio Talk Show (Prenatal Care) 7:30am – 8:30am
24
25 Village Health Outreach Rota Quitugua Sablan, NP Koblerville Youth Center 8:30am – 12:00noon
Mom and Me Talent Show Multipurpose Center 6:00pm – 9:00pm
26
27 28 29
30 Radio Talk Show (Appreciation Message) 7:30am – 8:30am
31 Village Health Outreach Gayline Blau, NP Tanapan Youth Center 8:30am – 12:00noon
WHM Pampering Day (Tinian) Venue and Time: TBD
Notes: Activities, dates and times are subject to change. Please note that the Calendar of Events are NOT finalized.
Brought to you by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Maternal and Child Health Bureau under the Division of Public Health Services through funding from the Health Resources Services Administration.

Babauta: KCHC may lose grant, federal health center designation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

Critical healthcare services and programs that are going down because of administrative misunderstanding and property ownership dispute may likely cause the Kagman Community Health Center to lose its grant and designation as a federally qualified health center under the Health Resources and Services Administration, according to former governor Juan N. Babauta Wednesday.

KCHC opened its doors to patients on April 5, 2013, which made the CNMI the last U.S. jurisdiction to receive funding under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act for a community health center.

Babauta said funding for KCHC comes from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation decided last Monday to look into the recent closure of KCHC.

In a statement, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said that KCHC closed since last April 27 not due to conflicts with CHCC, but under the prerogative of Dr. Katherine Elstun, who is currently the KCHC medical director.

Muña replaced Babauta as CHCC's CEO in April 2013.

Babauta said the closure of KCHC is essentially foreclosing and denying the approximately 15,000 residents of Kagman and the surrounding areas access to critically need primary healthcare services that are 100 percent federally funded by HRSA.

Babauta said the problem can be easily resolved with the administration's intervention by issuing an executive directive to address the property dispute in favor of KCHC.

Because of the critical nature and urgency of the situation, Babauta said the administration should immediately convene an emergency meeting with the CHCC's board to resolve the administrative dispute between KCHC and CHCC.

"Right now, it's all talk and no action while the residents of Kagman are being denied access to essential primary healthcare that they deserve," the former governor said.

Babauta said the Kagman community and the surrounding areas face serious health issues such as high rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and very poor preventive care, including pre-natal care.

He said based on other health information submitted to HRSA in the grant application, Kagman suffers from high childhood and adult asthma rates, poor oral healthcare, and high alcohol and tobacco use among adults and teenagers alike.

Tinian celebrates National Library Week, Family Literacy Fun Day

The Tinian Public Library celebrated National Library Week with a proclamation signing, as well as a Family Literacy Fun Day for the community's families last April 9. The signing took place at the library, with the Family Literacy Fun Day happening both in and outside the library.

The National Library Week Proclamation was signed at 9am by Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas.

Following the signing, the participants heard from poet Joey Connolly, who, in addition to reading some of his poetry, donated an anthology of poetry to the Tinian Public Library. In the afternoon, families were invited to the library to enjoy a Family Literacy Fun Day. Among the activities, families were able to watch a magic show performed by 2017 CNMI's Got Talent winner Neil Fama, as well as face painting, arts and crafts, balloon-making, and a demonstration by Tinian Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joetenkiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

Award-winning poet to speak at UOG on May 9

The University of Guam welcomes Dr. Craig Santos Perez, award-winning poet and professor of English at the University of Hawaii, Mānoa, as the 36th speaker in its Presidential Lecture Series. The event will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences lecture hall on the UOG campus.

Perez

The title of his lecture is "Ocean in our Blood." Perez will perform new poetry related to Pacific politics and Chamorro identity, and he will discuss the role of poetry in addressing issues of colonialism, militarism, environmental justice, migration, food, and cultural revitalization.

"We are very much looking forward to Dr. Perez's lecture and poetry reading," said Dr. Robert Underwood, UOG president. "Poetry and storytelling—these art forms are the traditional expressions of islanders and provide a human context to the current issues we are facing."

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Perez was raised in the village of Mongmong but has lived in California and Hawaii for the past 20 years. He is the author of four books of poetry, and he has received an American Book award, a Lannan Foundation Fellowship, and the Elliot Cades, the most prestigious prize from the Hawaii Literary Arts Council. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of San Francisco, and a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. He works as an associate professor in the English department at the University of Hawaii, Mānoa, where he teaches creative writing, ecopoetry, and Pacific literature.

Lecture series

In 2009, Underwood introduced the Presidential Lecture Series, which features distinguished and diverse guest speakers share their unique observations and thoughts with the university community. The university has welcomed over 30 lecturers, which include activists, scientists, entrepreneurs, poets, public servants, dignitaries, and professional athletes.

For more information and to view videos of the lectures, visit www.uog.edu/psl. ***(UOG)***

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Scheduled power interruption tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, May 5, from 5am to 10am, affecting Gualo Rai Middle Road to Chalan Laulan (along Chalan Pale Arnold Road). No water well will be affected but the GR-1 wastewater lift station will be affected.

There will be another power interruption from 12pm to 2pm, affecting As Perdido Road in As Perdido. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

The purpose of the power interruptions is to de-energize primary lines of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and allow line crews to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles. Two wooden poles will be replaced along Chalan Pale Arnold Road and one wooden pole will be replaced along As Perdido Road in As Perdido. Both project tasks are part of CUC's Hazard Mitigation Project that entails the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles.

A total of 366 wooden poles have been replaced with concrete poles. The remaining 421 wooden poles are scheduled for replacement in the future.

CUC asks that travelers commuting along the working areas during the project hours to exercise caution when driving through the affected area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

NMTI, Pacific Rim collaborate to train students

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute and Pacific Rim are partnering to train students in the carpentry and electrical fields.

A total of 28 students composed of Guam and Saipan trainees are taking advantage of this collaboration as their training programs officially started this week.

The training curriculum was put together through a regional apprenticeship program offered by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Guam Job Center.

NMTI serves as the official training unit after U.S. Apprenticeship approved the curriculum being taught prospective trainees. The institute's curriculum is backed by the National Center for Construction Education & Research through the Guam Contractors Association. At the end, students are given the opportunity to become "journeymen" as a result of receiving their U.S. DOL certificate.

Agnes McPhetres, chief executive officer of NMTI, said, "We have always taken the responsibility of addressing the manpower shortage seriously. The CNMI is not a stranger to building training programs. The CNMI has created numerous laws with the intent of establishing apprenticeships. However, this concept never seemed to take root in the CNMI [until] now."

Ross Manglona, NMTI's director of Workforce Development, said, "This opportunity is a welcome one for the school as we stand by our product and we thank Pacific Rim for seeing the need to grow its employees from within, a concept that is fairly new to many in our community." ***(PR)***

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute and Pacific Rim are partnering to train students in the carpentry and electrical fields.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-005-18

Wifi Service Design, Configuration, Installation, and Maintenance

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking proposals from experienced and qualified Parties (hereinafter "Proposers") to design, configure, install, and maintain wireless internet service ("WIFI service") at CPA facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning **April 02, 2018, at 8:00 AM** at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall be held on **April 09, 2018 at 10:00 AM** at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposers who are not familiar with the Saipan International Airport shall be afforded a site visit immediately after the pre-proposal meeting. Subsequent site inspections on Rota and Tinian will be determined during the preproposal meeting. Proposers shall be responsible for arrangements and all associated cost for the subsequent site inspections on Tinian and Rota.

Proposers must submit one original and three copies of their written proposal in sealed envelopes addressed to the Executive Director, Re: "WIFI Service at CPA Facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-18," P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, which shall be received by the CPA Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport by or before **4:30 p.m., May 04, 2018**, Written proposals delivered after said time and date will not be accepted.

The proposal will be evaluated by an evaluation committee. Proposals shall be restricted to the members of the evaluation committee until after the completion of the evaluation and ranking of proposals. Following completion of the evaluation and establishment of the preference ranking based on the evaluation criteria, award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to CPA taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP and applied in the evaluation plan. Proposals may be prepared and opened for public inspection after award.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to cancel this request for proposal in accordance with CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, to lengthen the proposal period, and to waive minor irregularities in proposals. Discussion may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. However, proposals may also be evaluated solely on the submitted written proposal without follow up or further discussion. All Proposers must agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the Request for Proposal and proposal package.

Nothing herein constitutes or implies a contract to enter into, accept or agree to any terms, conditions or rates, or to allow or promote any activity and in no way encumbers or obligates the CPA to enter into a contract of any kind with any Proposer.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-I8

PROCUREMENT/DELIVERY/INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) DIGITAL BENCH SCALES WITH DIGITAL DESTOP WEIGHT INDICATORS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement, delivery, and installation of 12 bench scales for the Saipan International Airport. The proposal package is available beginning May 04, 2018 at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement/Delivery/Installation of twelve (12) Bench Scales (RFP-008-18). One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than ***4:00 p.m. Local Time, June 01, 2018****, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.*

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Acting Executive Director

DATE

IPI workforce continues to dwindle

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC continues to report a downward trend in its number of workers for the past eight months, with a report to the Commonwealth Casino Commission about its employee headcount plunging.

Right now, its employee number is at its lowest within a 12-month period, based on the report of IPI human resources.

The downward trend started when IPI HR reported a headcount of 1,857 in August 2017. The month before, it had 1,870.

The headcount dipped to 1,503 in March 2018, a massive 23.55-percent loss of employees from an initial listing of 1,857 in August 2017.

Of the 1,503 remaining employees in March 2018, IPI reported that 44 percent of them, or 536, are U.S.-eligible workers while 91 are U.S. permanent residents, and 31 workers are employed through the Compact of Free Association agreement for the Freely Associated States.

The remaining 56 percent of non-U.S. workers is composed largely of CW-1 permit holders at 749 employees, while 19 have H1-B visas, five E3 visas, and 72 employees with Employment Authorization Documents.

March 2018 also saw the highest numbers of separations from IPI and the highest number of new hires. Separations include those employees who have been fired, has resigned, or got their permits denied.

IPI reported a total of 51 separations from IPI, while there were 23 new hires, solely in the month of March. February noted 45 separations and 21 new hires; January noted 47 separations and 21 new hires; and December 2017 noted 45 separations and only 5 new hires.

March 2018 also boasted a modest number of promotions at 19 while only two employees transferred departments. February noted three promotions and one transfer; January noted 25 promotions and 14 transfers; and December 2017 noted 48 promotions and only two transfers.

Torres attends PIDB meeting in FSM

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is in the Federated States of Micronesia, representing the CNMI with a member of the Legislature.

Torres, a member of the Pacific Islands Development Bank's board of governors, is attending the bank's annual meeting with the CNMI legislative representative, Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), in Pohnpei.

The board of governors, who meets annually in the spring to review bank operations and policy decisions, are responsible for overseeing PIDB bank activities and administration.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, Torres left in the weekend and was scheduled to be back yesterday.

The PIDB was created in 1989 by the Association of Pacific Islands Legislature, or APIL. Members of APIL include Guam, the CNMI, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the FSM states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Opinion

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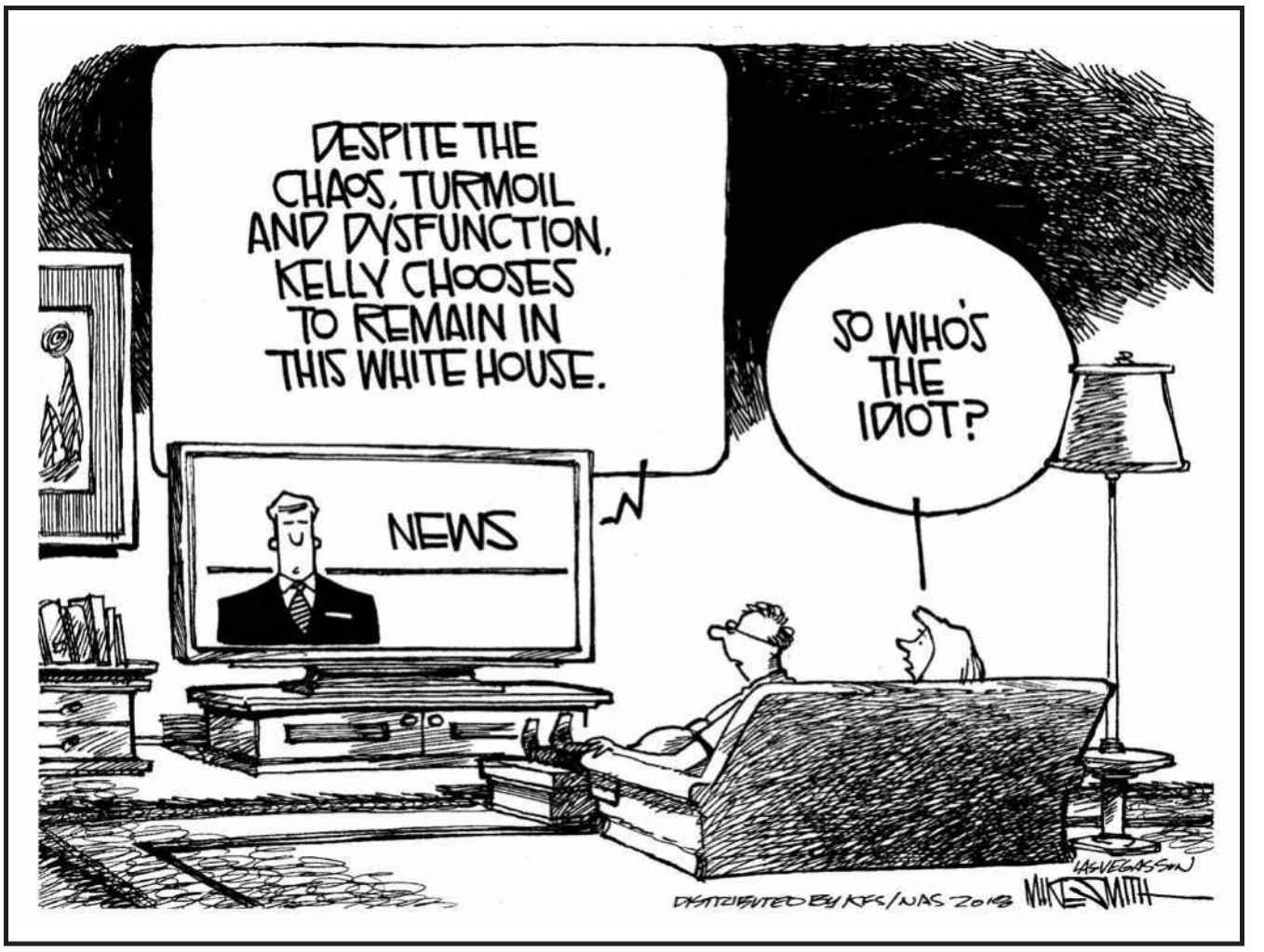
DESPITE THE CHAOS, TURMOIL AND DYSFUNCTION, KELLY CHOOSES TO REMAIN IN THIS WHITE HOUSE.
SO WHO'S THE IDIOT?
NEWS
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2018
MARK SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN

EDITORIAL

On North Korea talks, Democrats should do what Republicans didn't—stay out of the president's way

Given our hyper-partisan environment, when every policy is seemingly judged not by its prudence but by the political affiliation of its origination, something remarkable is happening. Democrats are not interfering with the Trump administration's attempts to solve one of the world's most vexing problems, a nuclear-armed North Korea led by a dictator whose intentions are difficult to decipher.

That's as it should be. That's not what happened when the Obama administration tried to make the Middle East a little more stable by reining in Iran's efforts to become the world's newest nuclear power. The GOP openly opposed the administration at every turn and took aggressive, unprecedented actions to blow up talks between the U.S., Iran and other major world powers. Sen. Tom Cotton from Arkansas even wrote an open letter to the Iranian regime essentially arguing no deal with the Obama administration could be trusted. The letter was signed by 47 Republican senators – including Richard Burr and Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott of South Carolina.

Their efforts didn't stop there. The GOP also tried to impose new sanctions on Iran during the delicate negotiations. Republicans took the extraordinary step of inviting the leader of a foreign country, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, to speak before Congress – without telling President Obama – to argue against the pending deal. That was in addition to a sustained effort to declare that any deal, no matter how well written, no matter the unprecedented levels of transparency, no matter that top nuclear experts agreed with what Obama was doing, could not work.

Now even the most-hawkish Republicans are taking a wait-and-see attitude as Trump tries to corral North Korea. They have not vehemently opposed the talks even though North Korea just eight months ago said it wanted to reduce the U.S. mainland "into ashes and darkness" and that the U.S. should "be beaten to death as a stick is fit for a rabid dog." Even Sen. Graham, who helped lead the charge against the Obama administration nuclear deal with Iran, says Trump would deserve the Nobel Peace Prize if talks with North Korea work.

We don't yet know if those talks will be fruitful, despite powerful and symbolic steps, including Kim Jong Un becoming the first leader of North Korea to stand on South Korean soil. North Korea has also reportedly said it would be willing to give up its nuclear program if the U.S. pledged

See NORTH KOREA on Next Page

Alan Hoenig on learning Chinese

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

On Feb. 9, in this space, I mentioned an interesting book, *Chinese Characters: Learn & Remember 2,178 Characters and Their Meanings* by Alan Hoenig, Ph.D. Hoenig is a retired City University of New York mathematics professor. I'm impressed with anyone who can learn Chinese, especially at the high level that Hoenig has accomplished, so I asked him to share some insights and tips with *Saipan Tribune* readers.

Today, then, the professor will give us some wisdom. Me, I'll sit in the back of the class with the delinquents, rolling dice for cigarette money and making comments of dubious pertinence.

But first, we'll start with an interesting twist. Hoenig's road to Chinese actually started out as a path to Russian. He wasn't satisfied with his progress in Russian, though, so he decided to try Chinese instead. Chinese proved to be a good match.

This introduces a question: In terms of difficulty, how do Russian and Chinese compare?

"Even though Chinese is not an Indo-European language," Hoenig said, "I would still say that Chinese is easier (than Russian). Its grammar is less opaque. Its famous tonal system takes some getting used to, but learning a word's tone is no more arduous for an American than remembering the final consonant of a word would be for a Spaniard learning English."

Not that anyone asked, but, for me, learning the correct tones academically isn't as difficult as recognizing them when they're coming at me verbally. I'm something of a difficult case on this note, but I've never doubted that it's worth the struggle.

"The payoff is big, " Hoenig noted, looking at the upside of learning Chinese. "There are tons of marvelous stories and poems, and you get to speak directly to citizens of the next great superpower. And then, you learn how friendly and playful they can be. Most importantly, you get better service and access to more authentic dishes when you order in Chinese at your favorite Chinese restaurant."

I can echo that comment on the restaurant note, even at the entry-level tier of the language. I used restaurants as my linguistic drill field when I was trying to go from textbook learning to street-level speaking. The concept was bigger than food, it also involved basic transactional elements such as inquiring about their business hours, paying the bill, asking if there's a minimum amount required for using a credit card, counting change, requesting that a larger bill is broken into smaller denominations, and so on.

It's not all a cake walk, to be sure, and Hoenig noted some of the challenges of learning the language: "Two real challenges in Chinese are a wildly different word order and the writing system, whereby a single character represents a single syllable. It's interesting that there are several parts of speech present in Chinese, but not in English. Moreover, Chinese parts of speech have fluid boundaries. Adjectives can double as verbs, and entire clauses may serve as adjectives."

As you probably suspect, the written element of Chinese is a big deal. Hoenig offered these insights: "Any student of Chinese knows the importance of the characters of the language—you need to write them, read them, and remember their meanings. All characters are constructed out of a number of components that appear over and over, and often these components are themselves characters. So if you create memory stories linking the component meanings to the character's meaning, you can `easily' remember this meaning."

Hoenig has a knack for creating these stories, which is why I found his book on learning Chinese characters useful.

Any Westerner who can communicate in Chinese is bound to get some memorable reactions, and Hoenig is no exception.

"The incredulous reactions I get when I speak Mandarin makes the effort well worthwhile," he said. "One time, on a commuter train from Suzhou to Shanghai during the evening rush, we were the only non-Chinese in the car. Some guy across from me spent several minutes mentally brushing off his high school English to painfully ask me where we were from. When I responded in Chinese, his jaw hit the floor. From then till the end of the line, we were the darlings of the car, sharing jokes (and) snacks."

So, how can students of Chinese get to the point where they, too, can be the darlings of the car?

"The single best way to learn Chinese, apart from formal registration in a course, is constant engagement," said Hoenig. "Seize every opportunity to speak with a native...Fortunately, no matter where you live, there's apt to be native Chinese speakers nearby."

Saipan is truly abundant in this regard, so there's no shortage of chances to practice and learn.

Hoenig's books are sold by Amazon.com and can be found by searching for the term "EZChinesey Guides." In addition to his books on learning Chinese characters he has also written *Eating Out in China: A Traveler's Resource.*

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Status of CW bill'

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the remarks the author gave to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting last Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Thank you for the invitation to speak today.

I am quite sure that what you want to hear about is the status of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. So I will not keep you in suspense.

As you already know, the bill passed the Senate last Monday evening by unanimous consent. It was transmitted to the House on Tuesday. And it has been "held at the desk" in the House, which means that it can be acted on at any time.

Just last Friday, I spoke to a majority leadership member, and he assured me that the House will act on the U.S. Workforce Act after we return to Washington next week.

And, like Sen. [Lisa] Murkowski, I am reasonably confident that the President will sign when he receives it.

Last year the President signed the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act, which also raised the number of CW permits and was a precursor to the U.S. Workforce Act, 11 days after he received it.

I know every day is precious to those of you who depend on CW workers and who may already have had applications for fiscal year 2019 rejected. Once the U.S. Workforce Act is signed into law, you will have an opportunity to reapply.

And instead of 4,999 CW permits—the number that the Trump administration decided on—there will be 13,000 permits available for next year—the number that Congress decided on. 13,000 is one more permit than we had in fiscal year 2016, when we had a big enough labor force that GDP rose 29 percent.

So, although there were calls for 15,000 CW permits, or the 18,000 I advocated for, the 13,000 we are getting should be enough to keep our economy growing—particularly because the movers behind the large construction projects are finally starting to understand how to get H2 visas and not use up the CW permits, which are so precious to so many of your businesses.

I will say, too, that we are fortunate to have 13,000 permits as the reset number for the CW program. In fact, it was not until the afternoon of Jan. 18 — the day before Sen. Murkowski and I introduced the U.S. Workforce Act in the Senate and the House—that I was able to negotiate the number up from 12,000 to 13,000.

I had to compromise.

There were many similar "nail-biter" moments in the process of negotiating the U.S. Workforce Act.

Of course, we started from zero: no extension, no more CW workers after 2019. Because Chairman Murkowski had insisted on taking away the authority of the Secretary of Labor to extend the CW program beyond 2019, when we got the five-year extension passed in 2014.

She would only agree to the 2014 extension, which included the bar on claims of asylum, which is what makes parole-based tourism from China possible, in return for taking away the ability of the Secretary of Labor to extend the CW program past 2019.

That was a tough choice. But I chose five more years of Chinese tourism. So I rolled the dice on getting the CW program extended by Congress. I had to compromise.

We are not quite there yet. But I think I made the right choice in 2014. In fiscal year 2017, we had 229,389 Chinese tourist arrivals. Without the extension of the bar on claims of asylum that I got in 2014 the only way Chinese tourists would be coming to the Marianas would be with B visas.

And with a B visa a Chinese tourist can go to Hawaii, or California, or anywhere in the United States. With parole they can only come here. So, I think I made the right choice for the Marianas by protecting parole.

Another critically important decision was to request the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to report on foreign labor in the Marianas. In 2016, Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Cantwell, and I jointly asked GAO to stretch the scope of its regular report to Congress on minimum wage to include analysis of how U.S. immigration law impacted the Marianas economy.

That report came out in May 2017 and famously concluded that, without foreign labor, the Marianas economy would shrink by 26 to 62 percent.

That report changed some minds. But not about extending the CW program past 2019. No, when the report came out in May 2017, it was only enough to convince certain Members of Congress that maybe it would be okay to give the Marianas a few more workers in 2017.

That is how I got the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act passed in Congress and signed into law in August of 2017.

The complaint at the time, here in the Marianas, was that the Economic Expansion Act was just a "short-term" measure. Of course, that's not true. Because the increased fee for training local workers to replace foreign workers contained in the Economic Expansion Act continues to this day.

And it was that shift in focus from, "How many foreign workers do we need?" to "How many U.S. workers can we find and train to fill the needs of the Marianas economy?"—that helped to break the logjam over extending the CW program past 2019. People who had been saying, "No extension, no way"—now agreed to sit down and talk about the economic realities of the Marianas.

In September 2017, the bicameral, bipartisan working group formed. Two months later, the Marianas congressional office wrote the first working draft of the U.S. Workforce Act. Two months after that, Sen. Murkowski and I introduced the bill.

Even though we both introduced the bill in the House and the Senate, our strategy from the first days of the working group in September was to make this a Republican bill and pass it in the Senate first.

A Republican bill, because this is a Republican Congress and we have a Republican President. So let's recognize reality. And let's start in the Senate, because long experience in Congress has taught me that it's easier to pass a Senate bill in the House than the other way around.

I passed a bill conveying submerged lands to the Marianas three times in the House. Three times it died in the Senate. It wasn't until I went to Ron Wyden, who chaired the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, as Sen. Murkowski does now, and asked him to introduce a submerged lands bill that we got it through the Senate and then through the House and signed by the President.

So, I have learned from experience: it does not matter whose name is on the bill. What matters is getting what you want enacted into law.

Today, I think we are close to getting what we want enacted into law.

The Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act extends the transition period to 2029. Note: I said the transition period. That means not just the CW program, but the E2C investor visa too, and the exemption from the national cap on H visas—so we can have as many construction workers as we want.

The 10-year extension of the transition period, also, continues the bar on claims of asylum, which makes the parole system for Chinese tourists possible.

At least, until the Trump administration decides to kill parole—a very real possibility.

The U.S. Workforce Act additionally includes a specific, numerical wind-down of the CW program. For 2019, we will have 13,000 CW permits. Five years later in 2024, we will have 10,500 permits. That is more than we have this year.

Let me repeat that: five years from now, we will still have more CW permits than we have today.

Also in the bill, for local workers, there are new protections from competition from cheaper foreign labor. For your businesses, there are new protections from the companies that scoop up hundreds of CW permits and then do not use them.

And, if you have long-term CW workers, legacy workers, you will be able to get three-year permits for them. So, you won't have to worry every year about renewals and go through the hassle of applying every year to USCIS.

You will also get preferential treatment in applying to renew those three-year permits. And, unlike regular CW workers, your legacy workers will not have to go home every two years. They can stay here—at least until 2029.

Like any legislation, the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act does not have everything that everyone wanted. It is a product of negotiation. We all had to compromise.

But the Workforce Act does have the most important things that we all wanted: an extension of the CW program, more CW permits, better protections for local workers, and better protections for your businesses.

And as Sen. John McCain said in his new book, "You're damn right, I'm a champion of compromise."

It's a good bill. But it is not the law yet.

Last week Monday, I spent all morning, and a good portion of the afternoon, fielding calls from Senate Democrats. They all wanted to know one thing: whether I supported this bill. And I said, "Yes." So they agreed to support it, too.

Getting the bill passed by the House is what I will be working on next week.

And then—there's the President.

Thank you again for inviting me to update you.

NORTH KOREA

From Page 14

to not attack – though that seems less than encouraging given that the U.S. made that pledge in 2005 and the regime moved ahead with nuclear weapons development anyway. We don't yet know if it's all just rhetoric, particularly because the U.S. definition of denuclearization has never been shared by North Korea. It could be just another in a series of head fakes.

But the Trump administration should be given space to find out. Democrats should continue to do what Republicans did not—put the country first, not politics.

(c)2018 *The Charlotte Observer* (Charlotte, N.C.)

FLIP-FLOP TRUMP
BY JOE "IRONICALLY, HE CAN'T STICK TO HIS GUNS" FOURNIER
PRESIDENT TRUMP EXPLAINS HIS FLIP-FLOPPING ON GUN CONTROL
THE NRA DOESN'T OWN ME! MY MEETING WITH NRA SPOKESMAN WAYNE LAPIERRE SIMPLY ALLOWED ME TIME TO CONSIDER THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO OUR MASS-SHOOTING CRISIS.
THAT MY NEW POSITION ON GUN CONTROL IS IN TOTAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE NRA'S IS JUST COINCIDENCE! NOTHING MORE!
OH! WAIT! YOU GOTTA SEE WHAT WAYNE GAVE ME FOR THE OFFICE!
IT'S AN AK-47 MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF MONEY!
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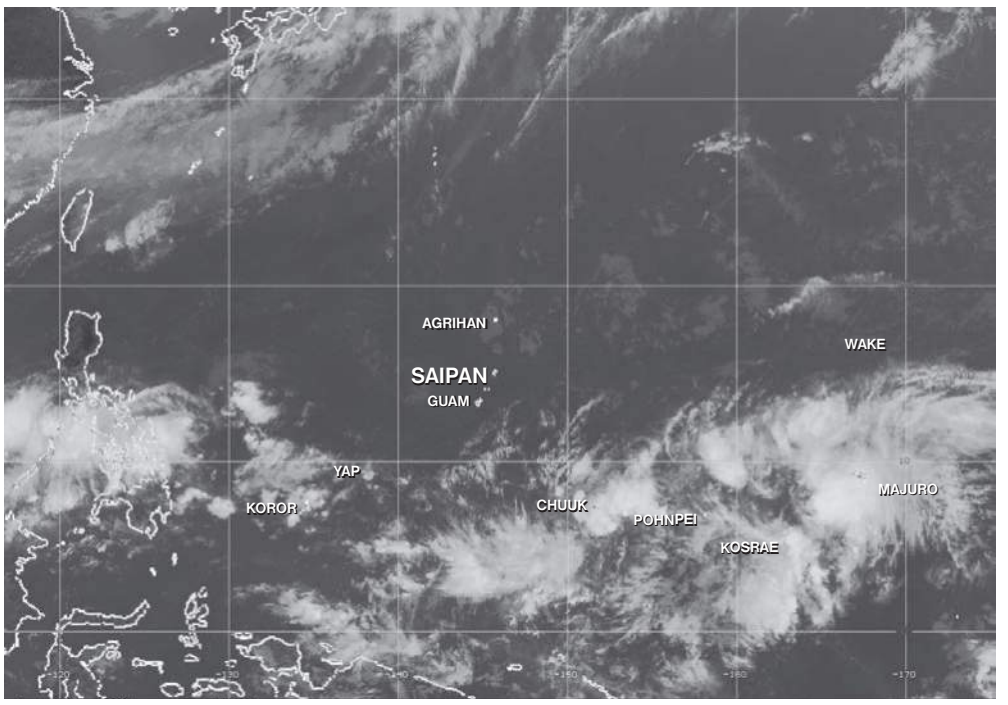
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:34 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Generally dry weather is expected through about the middle of next week. Some guidance suggests possibly a few more clouds and showers around Saturday but not confident on that at this point. Moisture does increase toward the middle and latter point of next week, but overall did not make any appreciable changes to the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 57°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 77°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 62°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 62°
Osaka	Sunny	72° / 61°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	61° / 41°
Busan	Windy	68° / 57°
Rome	Showers	70° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	87° / 62°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	59° / 46°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 68°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.10
9:22 AM	LOW TIDE	1.71
4:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.08
11:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.76

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:59 AM	10:12 PM
Saturday	-	9:48 AM	11:01 PM
Sunday	-	10:36 AM	11:47 PM
Monday	-	11:26 AM	-
Tuesday	12:32 AM	12:15 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

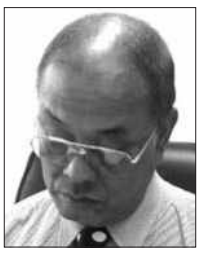
SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Staying constitutional



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

It's good to push issues to improve the wellbeing of the indigenous people. But where there are legal issues, this require a bit more purposeful planning than hurling views that are hardly tethered to constitutional requirements.

For instance, NMD's scheme to use public land to acquire business interest from established foreign investments here and use of MPLT funds misses the mark altogether. The proceeding illuminates the missing foundation from the outset.

1). Constitutionally, management, use, and disposition of public land rest with DPL.

2). DPL remits land lease funds (less administrative expenses) to MPLT for investment purposes. Interest earned accrues to the local treasury for "legislative appropriation." Both are constitutional law, pure and simple!

Clearly, NMD lacks the constitutional authority to dispose of either or both on its own accord. It requires a process, e.g., dealing with DPL by contributing its ideas while seeking legislative appropriation for its planned use of $400,000 of landowners' money. Unless it goes through the process and secures approval, its plan is instantly pre-empted by pertinent constitutional provisions.

Moreover, how could NMD venture spouting a plan that lacks public mandates? Or does it look at itself in the mirror and declare it so? Isn't this a bit presumptuous?

If you had reviewed pertinent law you would have found that it equally protects investors' "right of renewal." So how could you come in with your empty hands to rob them of their lifetime earnings? Why deny them what they've worked and earned throughout a lifetime?

The view to arbitrarily acquire investments only happens in a sovereign dictatorship. It's an aspirational display of socialistic entitlement or tendencies. The NMI is a permanent part of the U.S. It means investments here are fully protected regardless of anybody's view. It's a government of laws!

Moreover, the most damning aspect of your scheme is the apparent policy instability it promotes. What a pathway to annihilate future investments here! The ripple effect is economic contraction beyond your wildest imaginings.

It would mean far less revenue to meet the growing basic needs of the NMI. Is this your half-cocked visionary gift? Why the greed and get-rich-quick scheme? Ever heard of rugged individualism so you too earn your dues?

There's a way to achieve the same goal that requires constitutional realignment and placing all "affairs" under a single roof. There's good intention constantly compromised by the lack of purposeful organization and procedural legal tethering.

Lesson: Remember when we snubbed Nippon investments here in recent past in favor of another? Didn't the NMI lose more than $7 billion when JAL pulled out, including the sale of Nikko Hotel? Isn't the NMI regrettably pining for the return of rock-solid Nippon investments?

Are the people behind the current scheme endowed with superb business and economic acumen to be boasting a half-cocked plan of nationalization of sort? Are your investments here among the business icons all could attest and emulate? Or is your specialty more along the realm of Super Freakonomics?

Fund: The planned use of some $400,000 in MPLT funds to takeover management of hotels and resort is equally illegal and shortsighted. The funds are intended for investment purposes per the NMI Constitution.

It is the interest earned that goes to the local treasury for legislative appropriation. I doubt the planned use would fly, given its cryptic explanation plus the lack of real business acumen scaffolding what's being promoted.

The people of the NMI are direct recipients of the ripple effects of these investments found in jobs and taxes, the latter subsequently appropriated for public services. To redefine "direct" benefit requires a bit more rational discussion.

Wealth creation: The issue of investing in our people focuses on how do we allow them to engage in wealth creation. It need be a tangled concept wrapped in hundreds of pages of one foggy plan. All we need to do is funnel funds to fishermen, farmers, and others.

We have CDA, USDA and SBA ready to assist folks now in business or plan to start a small family business. Most of these simple folks fear their lack of literacy, thus they shy away from seeking help. It's our duty to assist them with paperwork. Simple! A concerted effort down this path should enable even families with small catering services to thrive one lunch plate at a time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

On behalf of the Rios family, my mother, Emilia Taisacan Rios, and my siblings, Remay, Roy, Joey, and I would like to say "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughts, prayers, words of encouragement, love, and guidance during a time of sorrow, sadness, and grief for our family due to the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother—former mayor Jose Santos Rios.

Un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase to Mayor David Apatang and his hardworking staff for spearheading and organizing a beautiful memorial at the Saipan & Northern Islands Memorial Kiyosku Leadership Courtyard in Susupe. A huge and special thank you to all Saipan Municipal Council members including Luis Castro, Antonia Tudela, and Diego Kaipat. Dad always had fond memories as a member of the Council and was proud of his achievements during his tenure. As humble as dad may be, I am sure he was with us on that special day and would have been honored hearing the accolades from his peers as well as the remembrance of his accomplishments as mayor and as a member of the Saipan Municipal Council.

My dad's name on the SNIMC Leadership wall symbolized not only his achievements for the people of the Commonwealth, but also showed that he was in good company with those who have worked so hard for our islands to ensure that we determined our own destiny and that our voices were heard. Sitting there in that courtyard and listening to all the wonderful things about dad was both heartwarming and overwhelming.

Thank you, Gov. Ralph Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog for taking time out of your extremely busy schedules to say kind words about our father and for the presentation of the CNMI flag and plaque honoring him. Thank you U.S. Congressman Kilili and staff (Mike and Tina) for presenting dad with a flag and recognition as a former mayor. Your words of kindness and tribute will never be forgotten. Thank you, members of the Legislature, including Speaker Ralph Demapan, Vice Speaker Janet Maratita Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Ed Propst, Rep. Angel Demapan, Rep. JP Sablan, Rep. Vinnie Sablan, Rep. Blas Attao, Rep. Donald Barcinas, Rep. Glen Maratita, Rep. Villagomez, Rep. Blanco, and Rep. Dela Cruz for your words of encouragement and appreciation for dad's accomplishments and for honoring him and remembering him. Thank you to all the senators—Senate President Arnold Palacios, Sen. Francisco Borja, Sen. Justo Quitugua, Sen. Paul Manglona, Sen. Frank Cruz, Sen. Steve Mesngon, Sen. Jude Hofscheider, Sen. Sixto Igisomar, and Sen. Terry Santos for scheduling a special session at the Legislature honoring dad's political accomplishments and achievements during the times when the Commonwealth was in its infancy.

When my father started getting ill, he used to ask us, "Do you think we will be remembered when we die?" I am sure he knows now that indeed he was not forgotten and that he helped pave the way for many others, just as those who paved the way for him. Nelson Mandela once said, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived; it is what difference we have made to the life of others that will determine the significance of the life that we lead."

For those of you whom I have failed to mention specifically by name, please understand that it was unintentional. To the public who attended his memorial, thank you for taking time out of your schedule to share such an important day with us. Our family is eternally grateful to you for remembering dad. To our family and friends, near and far, we love you all. There are simply no words that can express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you. In one way or another, you all have helped eased our pain. I would be remiss if I did not give a special thank you to my sister, Remay McNally, for a wonderful appreciation speech on behalf of the family. Dad would have been proud of you.

Marie Rios Martinez
Saipan & Seattle, Washington

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, May 09, 2018 12 noon** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (04/03/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
A. Letter from Yvette Sablan-Special Assistant for SAR Program
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Applications:
B. Renewal Applications:
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
A. Applicant
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on **Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of the Minutes
1. January 31, 2018 Operations Committee Meeting
2. February 1, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
A. Executive Director
B. Deputy Executive Director
C. Chief Financial Officer
D. Legal Counsel

IV. Old Business
1. FY 2019 Budget

V. New Business
VI. Miscellaneous
VII. Executive Session***
(Consultation with Legal Counsel Re Personnel and Other Matters)

VIII. Announcements
IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2012

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: **May 15, 2018**
Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **May 15, 2018** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **May 15, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on April 30, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

Famous Japanese food fighter Masubuchi to join 'Taste'

Japan's female food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi will join the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2018, taking on all local and international challengers at 7pm in the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition.

Masubuchi is a famed competitive eater and holds numerous records in Japan. She is well- known in Japan as a TV personality, model, actress, and a beauty contestant, winning the 2012 Miss Kamakura pageant organized by the Kamakura City Tourist Association.

"We are raising the bar at our annual Taste of the Marianas eating competitions with this year's participation of Masubuchi," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "She often eats up to 7 or 8 lbs of food during competition, so this is going to be a sight to see! We are calling on all foodies to show us what you've got. This very petite model, actress, and beauty queen can eat like there's no tomorrow. We know we have some locals in the Marianas who can give her a real challenge, so please step up to the plate. This is going to be fun and exciting. This is the first time we've ever brought in a celebrity food fighter, so we invite our whole community to come out, participate and enjoy the show."

Professional competitive eater Sachiyo Masubuchi will join local and international competitors in the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition on May 19, 2018, at the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas at American Memorial Park, Saipan. MVA

The J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition will challenge 10 competitors to earn $1,000 cash by being the first to finish 30 pieces of chicken, 15 drumsticks and 15 thighs, in 30 minutes. Second place will win $200 in Taste of the Marianas tokens, and third place will win $100 in Taste tokens. Should no competitor complete the challenge, consolations prizes will be awarded: $300 in Taste tokens for first place, $200 in Taste tokens for second place, and $100 for third place.

"When you think about it, it's relatively easy to eat a piece of chicken in well under a minute. And with $1,000 at stake, I am sure we can find someone able to finish a piece in 30 seconds," said Concepcion. "We want to thank our partners at J's Restaurant for their sponsorship of this competition. J's Restaurant is famous for their food and their fried chicken, in particular. We wanted to showcase an iconic island brand that tourists and residents can easily walk in to on a 24-hour basis and order their tasty fried chicken. Fried chicken is a staple at all island parties, so this is one way to let our visitors get a 'taste of the Marianas.'"

The registration deadline is 4pm on May 9, 2018. Applications are available at the MVA office on Beach Road in San Jose.

Masubuchi's numerous eating feats can be seen on YouTube.

Taste of the Marianas is the MVA's signature event for May Tourism Month and will be held from 5:30pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night) at American Memorial Park.

Participating food vendors will be Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Furusato Restaurant, Kinpachi Restaurant, Matty's BBQ, D'Elegance Restaurant, The Hut, Herman's Modern Bakery, Thai House, Terry's Snack Bar, Sierra Pearl Shake, and Tropical Chills. Participating drink vendors will be MarPac, Pacific Trading Co, and Saipan Brewing Co. ***(MVA)***

IPI CSR team spruces up memorial sites

For days now Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team has been working on the Okinawa Peace Memorial, which is part of Saipan's largest peace park situated in the north.

This cleanup work is in support of Marianas Visitors Authority's ongoing preservation and maintenance of the peace park as part of its overall beautification initiative.

Surrounded by the spectacular views of northern Saipan, the Okinawa Peace Memorial—along with other storied memorial sites/parks—continues to draw tourists who come to pay their respects. ***(PR)***

The Japanese Memorial located on Banzai Cliff is one of the project sites that need continued maintenance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility coordinator JR Brel guides the truck back so he can set up and begin the cleanup work. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Equipment are all set up for sprucing up of the Japanese Memorial monument. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CSR representative DJ Ayuyu starts on the water blasting. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Black men arrested at Starbucks settle with the company

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two black men arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the world's biggest coffee-shop chain Wednesday for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education.

Separately, they reached a deal with the city for a symbolic $1 each and a promise from officials to set up a $200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

The men portrayed the twin settlements as an effort to make sure something positive came out of the April 12 incident, which touched off a furor around the U.S. over racial profiling.

"We thought long and hard about it, and we feel like this is the best way to see that change that we want to see," said Donte Robinson, one of those arrested. "It's not a right-now thing that's good for right now, but I feel like we will see the true change over time."

Business partners Robinson and Rashon Nelson, both 23, were led away in handcuffs and accused of trespassing last month after the manager of a Starbucks in the city's well-to-do Rittenhouse Square neighborhood called police, saying the men refused to buy anything or leave. After spending hours in jail, they were released and no charges were filed.

The men said they were there waiting for a meeting with a third man about a potential real estate opportunity.

The incident proved a major embarrassment for Starbucks, which has long projected an image as a socially conscious company.

On Wednesday, Starbucks announced it reached a financial settlement with the men. The amount was not disclosed.

The company said they will also be given the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degrees, their tuition fully covered, through a Starbucks partnership with Arizona State University. The online college education program was created in 2014 for Starbucks employees.

Also, the men will be given the chance to discuss their experience and share their recommendations for changes at Starbucks with former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

During the uproar, Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson came to Philadelphia to apologize to the men. He also announced that more than 8,000 Starbucks stores in the U.S. would close on the afternoon of May 29 so nearly 175,000 employees can get training in unconscious bias.

Under the deal with the city, the men's arrest records will be expunged, and a program will be created to offer counseling and mentoring to entrepreneurs from Philadelphia high schools.

"I am pleased to have resolved the potential claims against the city in this productive manner," Mayor Jim Kenney said. "This was an incident that evoked a lot of pain in our city and put us under a national spotlight for unwanted reasons."

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross, who is black, at first defended his officers' conduct, but days later issued a televised apology for the way the Starbucks call was handled.

Robinson and Nelson, who grew up in an economically depressed section of the city, said the settlements are a good start, aimed at transforming their community and creating the types of opportunities that did not exist when they were younger.

Nelson said he considers the Starbucks incident a case of being at "the wrong place at the right time because of the outcome that can come out of it."

Hawaii poised to ban sale of some sunscreens that harm coral

HONOLULU (AP)—Many sunscreen makers could soon be forced to change their formulas or be banned from selling the lotions in Hawaii.

State lawmakers passed a measure this week that would ban the sale of sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate by 2021 in an effort to protect coral reefs. Scientists have found the two substances can be toxic to coral, which are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem and a popular draw for tourists.

Consumers would only be allowed to buy sunscreen with the chemicals if prescribed by a health care provider, though the measure itself doesn't ban online purchases or tourists from bringing their own to Hawaii.

It would become the first state to enact a ban on the chemicals if Democratic Gov. David Ige signs the bill; he has not indicated whether he will.

Similar legislation failed last year, after it pitted environmental scientists against businesses and trade groups that benefit from the $2 billion market for sun care products in the U.S.

This is "a first step to help our reef and protect it from deterioration," said Hawaii state senator Donna Mercado Kim, a fellow Democrat who introduced the measure. Although other factors contribute to reef degradation, "hopefully, other jurisdictions will look at this legislation and follow suit."

"This is the first real chance that local reefs have to recover," said Craig Downs, a scientist whose 2015 peer-reviewed study found oxybenzone was a threat to coral reefs. "Lots of things kill coral reefs, but we know oxybenzone prevents them from coming back." It also affects sea urchins and kills algae, a source of food for sea turtles, he said.

He found as much as 14,000 tons of sunscreen lotion ends up in coral reefs annually.

Opponents are skeptical of the science.

"What we're really concerned with is that there aren't very many independent studies out there that have gone for peer review," said Tina Yamaki, president of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii. She said the ban might discourage people from buying sunscreen products from local brick-and-mortar stores. The American Chemistry Council also opposed the bill, citing concerns over the dangers of sun exposure.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
INVESTIGATOR

Opening Date: 04/18/18 Closing Date: 05/18/18
POSITION: Investigator EXAMINATION NO. OPA-18-001

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Nation

Giuliani: Trump repaid Cohen $130K for payment to porn star

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump reimbursed his personal lawyer for $130,000 in hush money paid to a porn actress days before the 2016 presidential election, Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump's attorneys, said Wednesday, appearing to contradict the president's past claims that he didn't know the source of the money.

During an appearance on Fox News Channel's "Hannity," Giuliani said the money to repay Michael Cohen had been "funneled ... through the law firm and the president repaid it."

Asked if Trump knew about the arrangement, Giuliani said: "He didn't know about the specifics of it, as far as I know. But he did know about the general arrangement, that Michael would take care of things like this, like I take care of things like this for my clients. I don't burden them with every single thing that comes along. These are busy people."

The comments appeared to contradict statements made by Trump several weeks ago, when he said he didn't know about the payment to porn actress Stormy Daniels as part of a nondisclosure agreement she signed days before the presidential election. Giuliani later suggested to The Wall Street Journal that while Trump had repaid the $130,000, Cohen had settled the payment to Daniels without Trump's knowledge at the time.

Guiliani's revelation seemed aimed at reducing the president's legal exposure. But outside experts said it raised a number of questions, including whether the money represented repayment of an undisclosed loan or could be seen as reimbursement for a campaign expenditure.

Asked aboard Air Force One last month whether he knew about the payment, Trump said flatly: "No." Trump also said he didn't know why Cohen had made the payment or where he got the money.

In a phone interview with "Fox and Friends" last week, however, Trump appeared to muddy the waters, saying that Cohen represented him in the "crazy Stormy Daniels deal."

The White House referred questions to the president's personal legal team.

Giuliani, a former New York City mayor and ex-U.S. attorney who joined Trump's legal team last month, said the president had repaid Cohen over several months, indicating the payments continued through at least the presidential transition, if not into his presidency. He also said the payment "is going to turn out to be perfectly legal" because "that money was not campaign money."

No debt to Cohen is listed on Trump's personal financial disclosure form, which was certified on June 16, 2017.

Giuliani also described the payment to Daniels as "a very regular thing for lawyers to do."

Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, called the comment "a stunning revelation."

"Mr. Trump evidently has participated in a felony and there must be serious consequences for his conduct and his lies and deception to the American people," he said.

Giuliani made the statements to Fox host Sean Hannity, who has his own connection to the case. It was recently revealed in court that Hannity is one of Cohen's clients. Hannity has described his personal dealings with Cohen as centered on real estate advice and said that it "never rose to any level that I needed to tell anyone that I was asking him questions."

9 Puerto Ricans killed in final flight of 60-year-old C-130

PORT WENTWORTH, Ga. (AP)—A crew of nine Puerto Ricans were flying an Air National Guard C-130 into retirement in Arizona when it crashed onto a highway in Georgia on Wednesday, and authorities said there are no survivors.

The plane crashed onto state highway 21 moments after taking off from the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, narrowly missing people on the ground and sending an orange and black fireball into the sky.

"It miraculously did not hit any cars, any homes," Effingham County Sheriff's spokeswoman Gena Bilbo said. "This is a very busy roadway."

Eight hours after the crash, she added: "To our knowledge there are no survivors."

The huge plane's fuselage appeared to have struck the median, and pieces of its wings, which spanned 132 feet (40 meters), were scattered across lanes in both directions. The debris field stretched 600 feet (183 meters) in diameter, Bilbo said. The only part still intact was the tail section, said Chris Hanks, a spokesman for the Savannah Professional Firefighters Association.

The plane was more than 60 years old, said Isabelo Rivera, Adjutant General of Puerto Rico's National Guard. Belonging to the 156th Air Wing, it was used to rescue U.S. citizens stranded in the British Virgin Islands following Hurricane Irma and ferry supplies to the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria last year.

"The planes that we have in Puerto Rico—it's not news today that they are the oldest planes on inventory" of all National Guard planes nationwide, Rivera said. Puerto Rico's National Guard has five other similar planes, two of which need maintenance and aren't being used, he said.

It's too early to say what might have caused the accident, he said. The plane last received maintenance at the base in Savannah in April.

All nine crew members had helped with hurricane recovery efforts as part of the 198th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed the Bucaneros, which flies out of Base Muniz in the northern coastal city of Carolina, Rivera said.

"This pains us," Rivera said of the deaths. They aren't releasing names until all the families have been contacted, but "most of them already know and have come to the base."

Motorist Mark Jones told the Savannah Morning News that he saw the plane hit the road right in front of him, about a mile (less than two kilometers) from the airport.

"It didn't look like it nosedived, but it almost looked like it stalled and just went almost flat right there in the middle of the highway," Jones said, describing how people stopped and got out of their cars following the explosion.

DPL Department of Public Lands

SSFM CNMI, LLC
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS

A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has retained SSFM CNMI along with their sub-consultant, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests, the needs of government agencies, and groups representing commercial interests.

The first set of public hearings for this project occurred during the week of September 18 to September 21, 2017. The second set of public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

1) Municipality of Rota
   a. Date – Monday, May 7, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall
2) Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
   a. Date – Tuesday, May 8, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
3) Municipality of Saipan - 1
   a. Date – Wednesday, May 9, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Hopwood Middle School Cafeteria
4) Municipality of Saipan - 2
   a. Date – Thursday, May 10, 2018
   b. Time – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
   c. Location – Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria
5) Municipality of Saipan - 3
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
   c. Location – Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall, Garapan
6) Municipality of the Northern Islands
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Carolinian Utt, Garapan

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may fill out an online stakeholder survey form or view the current draft available on DPL's website at http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/. You may also email your comments directly to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com or jhart@chpmaui.com to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from this second round of public hearings will be compiled for incorporation into the final draft of the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings and provide comment.

There will be a final Public Involvement Program Meeting to present the final draft of the updated public land use plan. The tentative timeframe is mid-July 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE TO ALL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS IN SAIPAN, TINIAN, & ROTA

Pursuant to the recent amendments to NMIAC § 15-10, the Coastal Resources Management Rules and Regulations, the Director of the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be reissuing new Area of Particular Concern (APC) permits to all commercial marine sports operations on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purpose for reissuing marine sports permits is to ensure such permits reflect updated terms and conditions and comply with the current requirements of NMIAC-10-205(h)(4). DCRM hereby advices all marine sports operators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to reapply by submitting a new CRM APC permit application to DCRM on or before May 30, 2018. Any marine sports permit issued from previous years will no longer be valid effective May 31, 2018.

Asia

Rain new danger for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh camps

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP)—The Rohingya refugees have escaped soldiers and gunfire. They have escaped mobs that stormed through their villages, killing and raping and burning. They have fled Myanmar, their homeland, to find shelter in sprawling refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh.

Now there's a new danger: rain.

The annual monsoon will soon sweep through the immense camps where some 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have lived since last year, when they poured across the border in search of safety. The clusters of bamboo and plastic huts, built along endless waves of steep hills, are now facing a deluge that, in an average year, dumps anywhere from 40 to 60 centimeters (16 to 24 inches) of rain per month.

"I will not be able to light a fire. The wells will flood and I won't be able to get water. The outhouses will be destroyed. The house might also break down," sobbed Rahana Khatun, 45, who fled Myanmar last year with her husband and five children. "What will happen to us then?"

"I have fled my country. I am grateful to Allah for the little I have here in Bangladesh," she said. "But now the rains are coming and I am so worried!"

Government authorities and aid agencies have warned of a catastrophe if there are heavy rains this year. The monsoon usually reaches Bangladesh in April and reaches its peak between June and August, bringing almost daily downpours. Occasional rains have already hit the camps this year, with the full monsoon expected in the coming weeks. Aid agencies are now pre-positioning supplies across the camps, since flooding could easily block paths to food, water and medical care. With most of the area's foliage long gone, stripped away by refugees looking for firewood, little natural protection remains against mudslides.

The early rains have already loosened the dirt on steep hillsides, and tons of earth has shifted in some places. While a handful of people have been relocated, most remain at risk.

"There are no more trees, no more roots, so there could be massive landslides, burying people that live at the bottom of the hills" and carrying away those who live on hilltops, said UNICEF spokesman Benjamin Steinlechner. "So that is the major risk."

An even bigger worry is cyclones forming in the nearby Bay of Bengal.

Cyclones used to regularly kill thousands in Bangladesh, with the storms sweeping through low-lying areas and devastating everything in their path. The country has made remarkable progress against the storms over last few decades, installing networks of warning systems and fortified shelters. But there are no reinforced shelters in the camps.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society estimates that at least 100,000 refugees will be exposed to extreme dangers during the monsoon.

"If there is a cyclone, there really is not much more we can do," said Steinlechner. "People will be blown away, houses will be blown away. That's the risk everybody in the camp is facing right now."

"We are reaching out to the people right now to make sure that they know where to go in case they find themselves in an emergency situation," he said.

Mahathir wants to rule Malaysia again, shakes up election

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad wasn't invited to the forum that planned to debate whether at well past 90 years he was too old to be prime minister again. He turned up anyway.

"As far as health is concerned, I am not senile yet," he announced to the stunned participants, maybe of whom stood and snapped photos with their smartphones.

For good measure, Mahathir sat in the front row and tweeted: "I'm here guys. Say it to my face."

The recent move was trademark Mahathir. During more than two decades of strong-arm rule, he rarely shied from aggressively confronting opponents, real and perceived. And at 92 his appetite for political brawling remains apparently unsated.

The difference is that Mahathir's targets aren't those of yesteryear such as an imagined Jewish conspiracy against the Muslim world or the domestic opponents he ruthlessly silenced or imprisoned.

In an unlikely comeback, he's switched sides in Malaysian politics, coming out of retirement to unite an opposition that's seeking to end his former party's 60-year hold on power and oust his protege, Prime Minister Najib Razak, in May 9 elections.

Mahathir, a maverick in the early days of his political career who survived expulsion from the dominant United Malays National Organization party, was the first commoner to become prime minister of Malaysia. Though credited with transforming the Southeast Asian backwater into a modern economy, his dominance, like that of his contemporary, Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore, was stifling.

Under his rule, the judiciary was a tool of the government, the media was muzzled and a system of economic privileges for the Malay majority remained entrenched. His retirement in 2003 was welcomed by many Malaysians who wanted the country's progress to be measured more by more than just GDP figures.

Despite that mixed legacy, Mahathir is now welcomed by many "as a messianic figure, someone who has come back from the past" to redeem the country, said Rashaad Ali, a researcher at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

Even after stepping down, he remained influential, smoothing Najib's ascent to the top in 2009 after criticizing his first successor Abdullah Ahamad Badawi for poor economic management and also supported Najib in 2013 elections.

Then he became Najib's most ferocious critic as the prime minister, initially regarded as a cautious reformer, turned to Mahathir's authoritarian playbook to survive a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal at the 1MDB state fund that damaged the country's reputation abroad.

The U.S. and several other countries are investigating allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering at 1MDB, which was set up and previously led by Najib to promote economic development but accumulated billions in debt. The U.S. Justice Department says at least $4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib and it is working to seize $1.7 billion allegedly taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

World

ETA declares end to armed fight for Basque homeland

MADRID (AP)—The Basque separatist group ETA said it has dismantled its organizational structure after a six-decade independence campaign that killed hundreds in Spain, taking the final step in disbanding after disarming last year and bringing an end to one of Europe's bloodiest nationalist conflicts in recent times.

AP

Consuelo Ordeonez, sister of Grerorio Ordonez who was killed in 1995 by the armed separatist armed group ETA, holds up a sign reading, "ETA killed 853 innocent people.

The Spanish government vowed Wednesday not to abandon its investigation of crimes from the group's violent past, saying security forces would "continue to pursue the terrorists, wherever they may be."

ETA, whose initials stand for "Euskadi ta Askatasuna" or "Basque Homeland and Freedom" in the Basque language, killed more than 850 people during its violent campaign to create an independent state in northern Spain and southern France, most of them during the tumultuous 1980s when Spain was transitioning from dictatorship to democracy.

In a letter sent to Basque regional institutions and obtained by The Associated Press, ETA said it had "completely dissolved all its structures," and acknowledged its responsibility in failing to solve the Basque "political conflict."

With its support waning and stepped-up police operations on both sides of the Pyrenees undermining its ability to wage an armed struggle, ETA had already declared a "definitive end" in 2011 to its armed campaign.

But it took six more years for the group to give up most of its arsenal and another year for it to announce that its remaining members—numbering fewer than 50, according to Spanish officials, most of them living overseas—would be disbanding this week.

Responding to the announcement, Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido stuck with the government's hard line and vowed to keep investigating unresolved crimes attributed to ETA.

"ETA obtained nothing through its promise to stop killing, and it will obtain nothing by announcing what they call dissolution," he told reporters.

In the letter, dated April 16 and published first by the eldiario.es news website, ETA noted its dissolution "doesn't overcome the conflict that the Basque Country maintains with Spain and with France."

Palestinian leader's speech condemned as anti-Semitic

JERUSALEM (AP)—Remarks by the Palestinian president about the causes of 20th century anti-Semitism in Europe were sharply criticized as anti-Semitic and drew widespread condemnations from Israel and around the world on Wednesday.

In rambling remarks that were part of a lengthy speech to the Palestine Liberation Organization parliament on Monday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said it was the Jews' "social function," including money lending that caused animosity toward them in Europe. He also portrayed the creation of Israel as a European colonial project, saying "history tells us there is no basis for the Jewish homeland."

The comments drew criticism that Abbas perpetuated anti-Semitic stereotypes and ignored the deep Jewish historical connections to the Holy Land.

The Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial said in a statement that Abbas' speech was "replete with antisemitic tropes and distortions of historical facts" and accused the Palestinian president of "blatantly falsifying history to the point of accusing the Jewish victims as being responsible for their own murder."

The U.N.'s special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Nickolay Mladenov, said in a statement that "leaders have an obligation to confront anti-Semitism everywhere and always, not perpetuate the conspiracy theories that fuel it."

"Denying the historic and religious connection of the Jewish people to the land and their holy sites in Jerusalem stands in contrast to reality," he said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel lashed out at Abbas over his remarks.

"Abu Mazen has reached a new low," Ambassador David Friedman tweeted, referring to Abbas by his nickname. "To all those who think Israel is the reason that we don't have peace, think again."

The rhetoric reflects the escalating tensions between the Palestinians and the Trump administration. Ties have been strained since Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital last year, prompting the Palestinians to suspend contacts with the administration.

Friedman and Abbas have sparred before. In March, Abbas called Friedman a "son of a dog" in an angry rant.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Abbas' remarks were "the pinnacle of ignorance" and that the Palestinian leader was "again reciting the most disgraceful anti-Semitic slogans."

The European Union said in a statement that the Palestinian president's speech "contained unacceptable remarks concerning the origins of the Holocaust and Israel's legitimacy."

Abbas' office declined to comment.

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council demanding condemnation of Abbas' remarks and accusing the Palestinian president of trying to rewrite history with conspiracy theories.

Off The Wall

Shop hopes Russell Crowe's jockstrap will help business

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A celebrity jockstrap that's been the buzz of Alaska for nearly two weeks went on display Wednesday at one of the nation's last Blockbuster video stores in an effort to ramp up business.

"I tell you, we're going to get a lot of traffic, is what I'm expecting," said Kevin Daymude, general manager of Blockbuster Alaska.

He expects the store to get a lot of calls: "Did you get it in? Can we go see it?" he said.

The jockstrap has a strange history since actor Russell Crowe wore it in the 2005 movie "Cinderella Man."

It recently became part of a celebrity auction, which Crowe has dubbed 'the divorce auction,' where it caught the eye of the host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver."

Oliver purchased the jockstrap and some other items and sent them to Anchorage, which has one of the last remaining big box store video chains. The video store is trying to stave off streaming movie services, which are gaining popularity as more broadband capability comes to the nation's most remote state.

Oliver also sent along the robe and boxing shorts worn by Crowe in the movie as well as the actor's hood from "Robin Hood," his vest from "Les Misérables" and a director's chair with Crowe's name on it.

Blockbuster Alaska general manager Kevin Daymude moves a display case featuring the jockstrap worn by actor Russell Crowe in the 2005 movie "Cinderella Man" at the video store location in Anchorage, Alaska, on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. AP

But the prize is the leather jockstrap, and Daymude believes it might have a unique place in movie folklore.

"The very first jockstrap memorabilia I can think of, yes," he said.

And as for the most asked question so far, no, he doesn't know if they washed it before sending it, but he would like to think they did.

Daymude admits it was "be awesome" if Crowe were ever to show up at the store, but in the meantime he'd like to send photos of the display to him as a thank you.

And as for Oliver, Daymude said he would like to thank him by sending him copies of the movies that features the memorabilia Oliver sent to Alaska.

"I don't know if he's ever seen the movies, but I figure we can send him the movies and he can watch them," Daymude said.

A message seeking comment from HBO wasn't immediately returned Wednesday.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Fingerprint left in Play-Doh leads to shoplifting suspect

LEICESTER, Mass. (AP) -- A Massachusetts police department says a fingerprint left in a hunk of Play-Doh led them to a shoplifting suspect. Leicester (LESS'-tuhr) police responded to Walmart on Dec. 11 after an employee found several electronic anti-theft devices that had been covered in the malleable clay-like toy in an apparent attempt to neutralize them.

The attempt to disable the spider-wrap devices failed, and the suspect had fled. He did, however, leave a fingerprint impression in the Play-Doh. Police announced Monday the Connecticut Forensics Laboratory helped find a match for the print. Police charged 55-year-old Dennis Jackson with unlawful removal of an anti-theft device. Police say he has a long criminal record and faces arrest warrants in at least two other states. Jackson is jailed and it's not clear if he had a lawyer.

Brinks truck drops thousands of dollars on Indiana highway

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- State police say drivers clamored to pick up cash on an interstate in Indianapolis after the back doors of a Brinks armored truck swung open and hundreds of thousands of dollars flew out. State police spokesman Sgt. John Perrine says investigators don't know exactly how much cash was in the truck when its lost its load about 9 a.m. Wednesday on Interstate 70 on the city's southwest side. Perrine says it was definitely hundreds of thousands. Officers blocked traffic as they helped collect money from along the highway. Perrine says an undetermined amount remains unaccounted for as some drivers stopped to scoop up cash. Perrine says anyone who picked up the money could be charged with theft and he urged them to contact state police to return it.

Philly Naked Bike Ride to feature body-painting exhibition

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- The City of Brotherly Love apparently loves getting naked. The annual ride of naked bicyclists through Philadelphia's streets has been so popular organizers are teaming up with the artist behind New York City's Bodypainting Day to launch another body-painting event. Philly Bodypainting Day will debut Sept. 8, the day of the 10th Philly Naked Bike Ride. Nude public body painting will take place before the bike ride starts. The ride protests dependence on fossil fuels, advocates for bike safety and promotes positive body image. About 3,000 cyclists and artists from around the country are expected. Philly Bodypainting Day is being presented by Bodypaint.Me and Human Connection Arts, a nonprofit organization that promotes artistic expression and body acceptance through events such as NYC Bodypainting Day. Bodypaint.Me artist Matt Deifer (DY'-fer) says he's excited "to showcase all of this art."

Science & Technology

How to buy a spiffy new PC

By HAROLD GLICKEN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I was in the market for a new Windows computer. I've had good luck with Dells, so that's where I turned for my purchase. My budget was around $1,200, which seemed like the sweet spot for the kind of PC I wanted. Since I do a lot of photo and video editing, I needed a powerful PC with lots of memory. I chose a top-of-the-line XPS 8930 with a 1 terabyte solid state drive and a 1 terabyte traditional drive. I also asked for 16 gigs of RAM and a separate video card with at least 4 gigs of memory.

Dell has a 24/7 chat line, and so, in the wee hours of the night, I started chatting. It was then that I discovered that no two quotes were alike for the PC I wanted. My first chat resulted in a quote of $1,648. I quickly ended that chat and started over with another chat-mate. "With all discounts available, the final price is $1,499." That still seemed too much for my budget, but I wondered about the $150 difference. Emboldened and curious, I initiated yet another chat: $1,529. Still curious, I started another chat: $1,440. It was late, and I was weary from all the chatting, so it was off to bed, where I dreamed I was being stuffed into a DVD drive cassette.

Refreshed, though somewhat shaken from my dream, I tried again. This time I was quoted $1,322, a whopping $326 less than my first quote. I ran with it. And then I discovered something interesting. I asked my chat-mate for her name, to give her credit for the sale. She demurred, saying that she doesn't get paid for the actual sale. It was only then that the upselling began.

Since the PC comes with only one year of hardware warranty, how could I possibly pass up an $89 warranty upgrade that would cover software, too? If I were really concerned about protecting my investment, two years of warranty could be bought for $169. Passing on the warranty extension, I watched as the rep outlined the features of a no-interest financing deal Dell was promoting. I declined that, too. Finally came the software pitches: Microsoft Word and an anti-virus program.

Facebook launches dating service

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook doesn't think hookups are meaningful and doesn't want you to date your friends - but it's known for a long time that its vast map of human connections could help people find long-term partners. At least that's the takeaway from a new dating feature the social networking giant is launching because, well, why not?

After all, Facebook already lets you "poke" people, whatever that means, and lets you broadcast your relationship status. If you ever download all the data Facebook has on you, you'll see it even keeps track of all the past partners you've listed on Facebook, even if this isn't visible on your profile.

A dating tool has always seemed the next logical step, as Chris Cox, Facebook's chief product officer, said Tuesday at Facebook's f8 conference for app developers in San Jose, California. Fourteen years after Facebook›s launch, it›s finally coming.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the new dating feature is "not just for hookups" but to build "meaningful, long-term relationships." That seems a direct swipe at Tinder, which is still best known for hooking people up with people they find attractive by showing their photo, age and first name. Shares of Match.com, which owns Tinder, tumbled on the news.

Of course, Tinder itself uses Facebook data to act as a digital matchmaker (as do many other dating apps), and Facebook's dating feature seems to borrow some ideas from one of the world's most popular dating apps. Facebook's feature will be opt-in, meaning you have to choose to use it. Like Tinder, it'll use just your first name.

AOL changes make old software stop working

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: When I try to use the AOL software on my two Windows PCs, I get pop-up messages that say: "Either there is no default mail client or the current mail client cannot fulfill the messaging request." Because this never happened before, I assume it's caused by recent updates to either Windows or my Norton security software. What can I do?

A: The updates aren't the problem. You received the warning messages because the old AOL software installed on your two PCs can no longer send or receive e-mails.

Earlier this year, AOL said it was discontinuing its older PC-based software and giving users a choice of how to keep using its service. They could either pay $5 a month to use new PC-based software called AOL Desktop Gold or use the free AOL websites (mail.aol.com or aol.com). The changes are occurring because AOL was acquired by telephone company Verizon, which is combining AOL's mail system with that of Yahoo, another acquisition.

As part of the change, previous AOL PC software has lost its ability to send or receive new e-mails, although it can continue to access old e-mails if they are stored on your PC (see tinyurl.com/y7ka33ox). As a result, you no longer have a working "default mail client," and that generated the warnings you received.

The most practical solution is to use one of the AOL websites via a web browser. (For an overview of the minor differences between accessing AOL via the Web rather than through PC-based software, see tinyurl.com/y8vphsyl). While this Webmail approach may seem different, it's now common, and is the way people access popular e-mail systems such as Google's Gmail and Microsoft's Outlook.com.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†ELENA QUITANO SABLAN

AUGUST 17, 1923 - APRIL 29, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:

HUSBAND:	†Pedro Dela Torre Sablan
PARENTS:	†Manuel C. Quitano & †Rita R. Quitano
PARENTS IN-LAW:	†Francisco Sablan & †Maria Sablan
BROTHERS / SISTERS AND IN-LAW:	†Jose R. Quitano & †Maria T. Quitano
	†Angela Q. Palacios & †Jose Palacios
	†Pilar R. Quitano
	†Justa Q. Camacho & †Vidal A. Camacho
	†Francisco R. Quitano
	†Ignacio Sablan & †Aguida P. Sablan
SON:	†Dr. Manuel Q. Sablan
REARED SON IN-LAW:	†Ernest M. Sablan

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

DAUGHTER:	Margaret S. McQuay, Children & Grandchildren
DAUGHTER IN-LAW:	Magdalena B. Sablan, Children & Grandchildren
REARED CHILDREN:	Elizabeth C. Sablan
	George Q. Camacho & Lydia Sablan
	Juan Camacho & Luisa Camacho
	Ellen Q. Camacho
BROTHER IN-LAW:	Leonard Sablan & Eula Sablan

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, relatives, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of her soul is being celebrated each morning at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am. Funeral Services will be held on Monday, May 07, 2018. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 9:00 am to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to a peaceful rest.

UN DANGKULU NA SI YU'US MA'ASE,

The Family

Life & Style

Peppa Pig wins street cred, attracts censors in China

BEIJING (AP)—A cherubic British cartoon character has become an unlikely target of China's censors as fans use her porcine likeness in rap videos and "gangster" tattoos.

The bright pink swine's subversive alter-ego has made her a viral hit but also an apparent target of government workers who police the internet.

Videos with the hashtag #PeppaPig could not be searched Wednesday on Douyin, a popular video app. The catchphrase, "Get a tattoo of Peppa Pig, give a round of applause to 'gangsters,'" was also not searchable on the Weibo microblogging platform, which posted a message saying it was acting "in accordance with relevant legal regulations."

Regulators have been ratcheting up control over Chinese blogs and apps in recent months. A controversial cybersecurity law was introduced last June as part of President Xi Jinping's efforts to tighten control over what China's public can see and say online while still trying to reap the economic benefits of internet use.

AP
A man holds a Peppa Pig's children bag near a section selling Peppa Pig toys at the British's Hamleys toy store in Beijing, Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

It was not clear whether the censorship of Peppa on Douyin was prompted by a government mandate.

Bytedance saw its social networking app Neihan Duanzi shut down by the State Adminstration of Radio and Television last month. The app was a hub for GIFs, memes and often-vulgar humor which the authorities deemed "unhealthy." The company's chief executive, Zhang Yiming, said in an apologetic statement at the time that he would increase the size of the content-monitoring team to 10,000 employees.

Chinese media said there had been at least 30,000 clips under Peppa's hashtag on Douyin. Variations on the name, such as "PigPig" or "PeppaPeppa" are still searchable.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Douyin denied that it has "banned" Peppa Pig. But a source close to the company who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on its behalf said Douyin removed some user-generated videos featuring Peppa Pig that the company deemed inappropriate.

Internet users have aligned Peppa with the culture of "shehuiren"—literally "society people"—which connotes a gangster attitude and street smarts.

The Global Times, a state-run newspaper, wrote Monday that the moniker "refers to people who run counter to the mainstream value and are usually poorly educated with no stable job. They are unruly slackers roaming around and the antithesis of the young generation the (ruling Communist) Party tries to cultivate."

The party newspaper People's Daily likewise warned last week that Peppa "should not be allowed to destroy children's childhoods." It noted that Peppa has been used to sell merchandise not connected with the original brand.

Michelle Obama, De Niro, Zendaya fete college-bound kids

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michelle Obama told college-bound Philadelphia high school seniors Wednesday about when she applied to universities. Her counselor advised her not to set her sights too high and warned that some of the schools on her list were out of her reach, the former first lady said.

"There are always haters out there telling you what you can't do," Obama told the students celebrating College Signing Day.

She did not heed her counselor's words. Instead, she attended Princeton University and Harvard Law School. Decades later, she accompanied her husband to the White House for two terms.

"I know that you are me," Obama told the crowd. "And if I can be standing here as your forever first lady, then you can do anything you put your mind to." The label, "forever first lady," came from actor Nick Cannon, who along with other A-listers joined Obama at the fifth annual celebration, the first in Philadelphia.

The event, held at Temple University, was not always, or often, solemn and serious. After Obama shared her thoughts, she broke out her dance moves alongside actors Robert De Niro, Bradley Cooper, Zendaya and Rebel Wilson as they all advocated for higher education.

Obama pioneered the tradition in 2014 to congratulate young people who have chosen to further their education through a professional training program, community college, four-year institution or the military.

She closed the festivities, but a long list of known names preceded her. Karlie Kloss, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Ciara, Camila Cabello, Malcolm Jenkins and other major entertainers and athletes lent their support to the college-bound students.

Johnathan Phan, a first-generation college student headed to Temple, said he's excited about the experience that wasn't afforded to his parents and other relatives. He also seemed enthusiastic before Obama's speech.

Lawyer tells judge Harvey Weinstein is a 'pimp in a tuxedo'

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for an aspiring actress told a judge Wednesday that Harvey Weinstein is a "pimp in a tuxedo" as he tried to bolster his claim that a sex trafficking law commonly used against pimps can be used to sue the disgraced movie producer.

Attorney Jeff Herman made the claim during oral arguments as he tried to convince a New York judge to let Kadian Noble's lawsuit proceed.

Weinstein's lawyer, Phyllis Kupferstein, arguing for dismissal of the lawsuit, said that the 31-year-old London actress cannot claim she is a sex trafficking victim.

"It can't be the law that every time a woman has a sexual relationship with a more powerful man in an effort to advance her career and things don't go the way she likes, somehow that makes her a sex trafficking victim," Kupferstein said.

Herman said comparing Weinstein's actions to what occurs during normal dating interactions is "ridiculous and repugnant."

In her lawsuit, Noble alleged she was abused by Weinstein in Cannes, France, in 2014, after a chance meeting three months earlier at an after-party for the British Academy Film Awards. She maintained she was promised an acting role and was strung along for two years before it became clear it would not materialize.

According to the lawsuit, Weinstein invited her to his hotel room, where he made sexual advances and told her she would receive an acting role and he would arrange for her to meet with an elite modeling agency. It said Weinstein then acted with "aggression, force and coercion" to initiate sexual contact with Noble, telling her "everything will be taken care of for you if you relax."

"Harvey Weinstein is a pimp in a tuxedo," Herman told U.S. District Judge Robert W. Sweet as he argued that he properly sued under a criminal sex trafficking statute that had never been tested in this way as a civil case.

The judge agreed the lawsuit was unique, saying there were no previous court rulings "close to this, pro or con." He said he would rule at a later date.

Ex-'Apprentice' contestant wants tapes for suit vs. Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—A former contestant on "The Apprentice" who has accused President Donald Trump of unwanted groping and kissing is seeking footage from the reality TV show as part of her defamation lawsuit against him.

Summer Zervos' lawyer, Mariann Wang, said Wednesday she issued a subpoena for any "Apprentice" material that features Zervos or Trump talking about her or discussing other female contestants in a sexual or inappropriate way.

Wang also subpoenaed records from the Beverly Hills Hotel, where Zervos says Trump made unwelcome advances in 2007.

"We are gathering evidence that will prove that the defendant (Trump) lied when he falsely denigrated Ms. Zervos and denied sexually assaulting her," Wang said.

Trump has denied Zervos' allegations. Zervos says he defamed her by saying she lied; Trump's lawyers say his remarks weren't slanderous.

Trump's lawyers didn't immediately respond to an inquiry about the new subpoenas, which seek emails, financial records and other documents in addition to any video and audio recordings. Trump's attorneys have been trying to get the case dismissed or at least held off until after Trump's presidency.

The question of what Trump might have said or done in "Apprentice" outtakes surfaced during his campaign. The Associated Press asked for original "Apprentice" footage before and after publishing an October 2016 story in which more than 20 former cast and crew members said Trump frequently used lewd, demeaning and sexist language on set and pointed out contestants he wanted to have sex with.

Pressure from former contestants and Democrats for the release of raw "Apprentice" footage increased later that month after The Washington Post published a 2005 "Access Hollywood" recording of Trump talking about aggressively groping women.

At the time, MGM, which owns "The Apprentice," said it couldn't unilaterally release any unaired, archived material because of contractual obligations. The show's producer, Mark Burnett, also said he didn't have the ability or right to release footage.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prolific and versatile poet wins $60,000 award

NEW YORK (AP)—A Chinese-American poet known for blending a wide range of influences has won a $60,000 prize. John Yau is this year's winner of the Jackson Poetry Prize, Poets & Writers told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The prize is given to an American writer of "exceptional" talent who deserves greater recognition. In dozens of books, Yau has drawn upon everything from visual art to both Eastern and Western culture. His poetry collections include "Paradiso Diaspora," ''Corpse and Mirror" and "Borrowed Love Poems." Poets & Writers is a nonprofit organization founded in 1970.

E. Annie Proulx honored by Library of Congress

NEW YORK (AP)—For the second time within a year, E. Annie Proulx has received a lifetime achievement award. The author known for "Brokeback Mountain" and "The Shipping News" is this year's recipient of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. On Wednesday, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden praised the 82-year-old Proulx for her "monumental sagas and keen-eyed, skillfully wrought stories." Last fall, Proulx was presented a National Book Award Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. Her other works include the novels "Barkskins" and "Postcards." Her previous honors include the Pulitzer Prize for "The Shipping News" and the PEN/Faulkner award for "Postcards."

It ain't tea, babe: Bob Dylan embraces Tennessee whiskey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Music icon Bob Dylan is partnering with a distillery to make whiskey at a 140-year-old Tennessee church and bottle it under the name Heaven's Door. News outlets report Dylan has partnered with Angel's Envy Bourbon co-founder Marc Bushala in the venture. The New York Times first reported on the plan. Dylan recorded four albums in Nashville. The Tennessean reports Heaven's Door's first whiskey releases include a Tennessee straight bourbon whiskey, a double barrel whiskey and a straight rye whiskey. The whiskeys initially will be available in Tennessee, Texas, California, Florida, New York and Illinois. Dylan said in a statement that he and Bushala wanted to tell a story with the line of whiskeys.

George Michael's family asks fans to remove memorial shrines

LONDON (AP)—George's Michael's family is asking fans to remove flowers, photos and other tributes left outside the late singer's two homes. A grassy square across from Michael's London house is bedecked in bouquets candles, flags and handwritten messages for the singer, who died in December 2016. Similar offerings have been left outside the house in Goring, 50 miles (80 kilometers) from London, where Michael died. In a post Wednesday on Michael's website , his father, sisters and friend David Austin said they were touched by the tributes, but felt they couldn't ask neighbors "to continue to accept as normality, the memorials so personal to you all, to remain as and where they are any longer." They asked fans to remove the tributes by May 27, "leaving any you wish us to have."

Comic Tom Arnold on the hunt for Donald Trump tapes

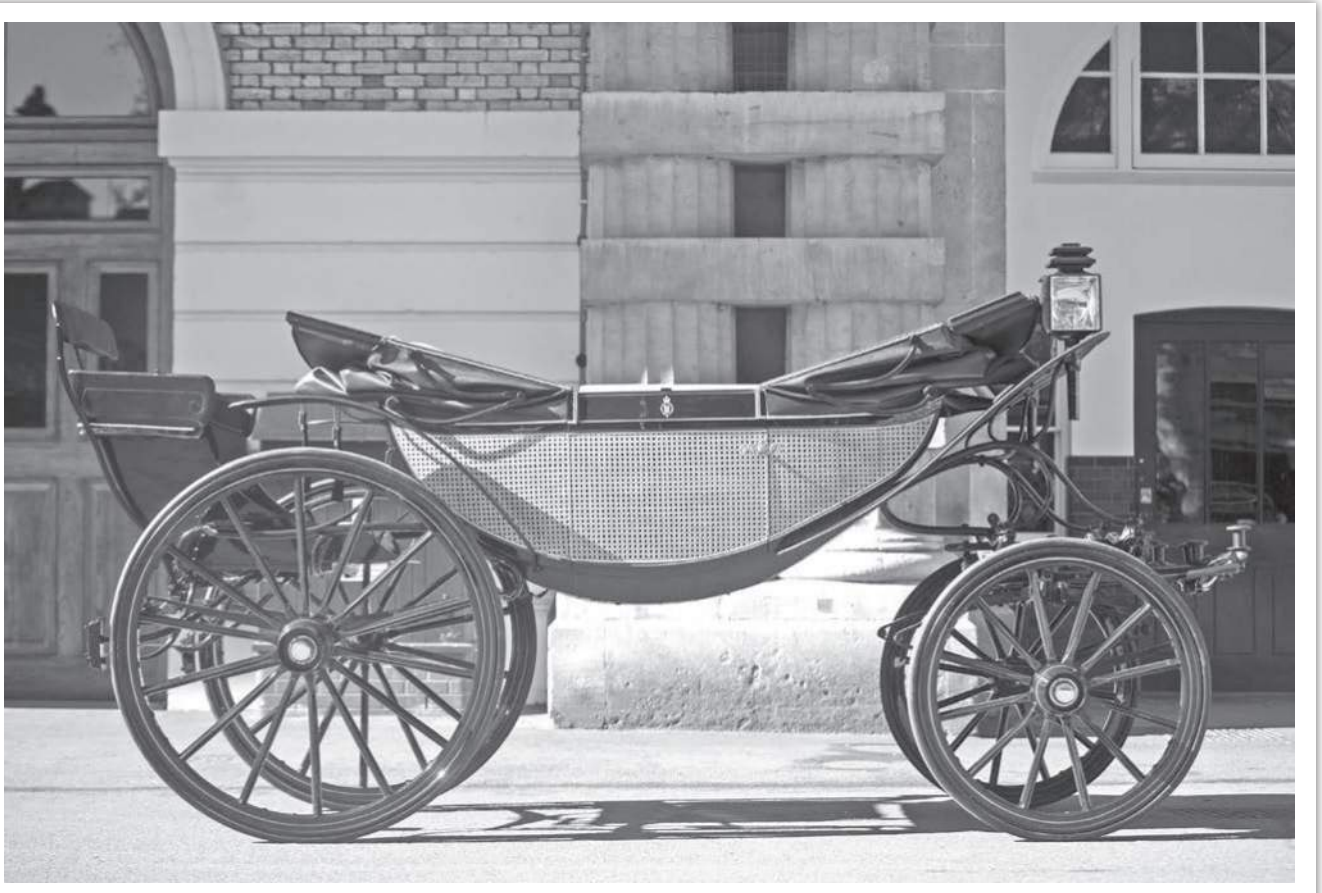
NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Arnold's obsession with President Donald Trump's past is becoming a television series. Vice Media said Wednesday that it is starting production on a new series with the comedian called "The Hunt for the Trump Tapes." With the infamous "Access Hollywood" outtakes as an inspiration, Arnold says he wants to look for other material left in the president's past and probably in entertainment company vaults. The Viceland cable network, where the show will air, calls the series "All the President's Men" crossed with "Curb Your Enthusiasm." He announced it on Howard Stern's SiriusXM show. Stern is in possession of some intriguing Trump tapes of his own, based on the president's appearances on the DJ's raunchy show.

Man charged with trying to extort Kevin Hart with video

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man was charged Wednesday with trying to extort money from Kevin Hart by threatening to release video he secretly shot of the actor and comedian with a woman in Las Vegas. Los Angeles County prosecutors charged 41-year-old Jonathan Jackson with attempted extortion and extortion by threatening letter. Jackson, who was arrested Monday, made a brief appearance Wednesday afternoon in court, where a judge set his bail at $35,000 and told him to return May 30 for arraignment. Prosecutors allege Jackson tried to extort an undisclosed amount from Hart in August then tried to sell the video to celebrity news websites. Jackson's lawyer, Chad Lewin, said in court that Jackson is married and has no criminal history. Lewin did not immediately respond to an email seeking further comment.

TV academy reviewing Bill Cosby's Hall of Fame honor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The TV academy said it is reviewing Bill Cosby's inclusion in the academy's Hall of Fame following his sexual assault conviction. Cosby's spokesman didn't immediately respond Wednesday to a request for comment. Although the academy hasn't decided whether he'll remain in the Hall of Fame, Cosby's name had previously been removed a list of Hall of Fame honorees on the academy's website. A bust of Cosby no longer will be part of a rotating Walk of Fame exhibit honoring TV heavyweights at the academy's Los Angeles headquarters, an academy spokesman said. Last week, jurors in Pennsylvania convicted Cosby of drugging and molesting a Temple University employee in 2004. He awaits sentencing.



WEDDING CARRIAGE AP

The Ascot Landau open carriage, which will be used in the case of dry weather, for the wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, stands ready in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace in London, Tuesday May 1, 2018. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will tie the knot at St. George's Chapel in Windsor, southern England on May 19, with about 600 guests and some 2,600 neighbours, staff and specially selected members of the public greeting the happy couple outside the chapel. The Scottish State Coach will be used in the case of wet weather.

Retired husband's wardrobe is too casual for wife's comfort

DEAR ABBY: When I met my husband, he dressed impeccably—suits, sharp sport coats, monogrammed shirts, freshly pressed dress slacks, top-of-the-line leather shoes. Even when we went out with friends for a casual night or a movie, he still dressed well in current, fashionable clothing. I fell in love with a man who dressed beautifully (my father was known for his attire as well, which is perhaps why I like the successful look).

Now that he's retired, his jeans always look dingy (they're not dirty; they just look like they are), his sneakers look worn, and he just doesn't care about his appearance like he once did. When we go out together, I'm embarrassed.

I love the man who used to care about his appearance, not this retired, sloppy-looking guy. If I complain, he tells me I'm being ridiculous. I don't expect him to look like he once did (office attire), but he should at least look current, crisp and clean. Am I wrong to be embarrassed?

LIKES THE OLD LOOK

DEAR LIKES: I wish you had mentioned how long you and your husband have been married, because over the last 40 years styles have changed. People of both sexes dress much more casually. Your husband may have dressed more formally years ago because there was a dress code at work and it was expected with the crowd with whom you socialized or the places you went. At this point, he may feel that because he's retired he has earned the right to dress "comfortably."

Yes, you are wrong to be embarrassed. What is important is how your husband feels about himself. How he presents himself is a reflection only on him—not you. You might suggest a shopping trip so the two of you can update those jeans and sneakers, but if he won't bite, you would be wise to let him off the hook.

DEAR ABBY: My significant other and I have five children between us. He has a son and daughter from a previous marriage, I have a daughter from a previous relationship, and we have two daughters together.

I love all our children equally, but my significant other complains nonstop about my daughter from the previous relationship. He nags about every little thing she does, which he never does with his own children. I have talked to him many times about the favoritism he shows toward his kids over my daughter. I understand she's not perfect, but how can I get him to treat all of the children equally?

EQUALLY CONFUSED IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR EQUALLY CONFUSED: Children aren't stupid. In fact, they are very perceptive. I'm sure your daughter recognizes that the man her mother lives with doesn't like her and treats her differently.

If you can't get through to him that what he's doing is unfair and damaging to your child, and that he needs to tone it down, then explain to her the reason why it's happening. And if necessary, enlist the help of a licensed family therapist to change the dynamic.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

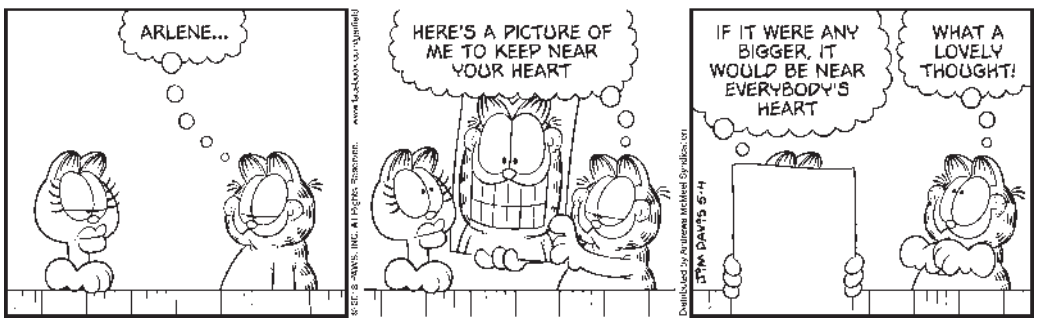
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FOUND A DINOSAUR SKULL ON OUR VERY FIRST ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG!
IT'S COMPLETELY INTACT, TOO! WHAT A DISCOVERY!
MAYBE THE REST OF THE SKELETON IS NEARBY!
YEAH! IF WE CAN FIND THE WHOLE THING, WE'LL BE WORLD FAMOUS!
WITH THE GRANT MONEY WE'LL GET, WE CAN BUY A PORSCHE!
HOW WILL THIS LOOK ON THE COVER OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC?

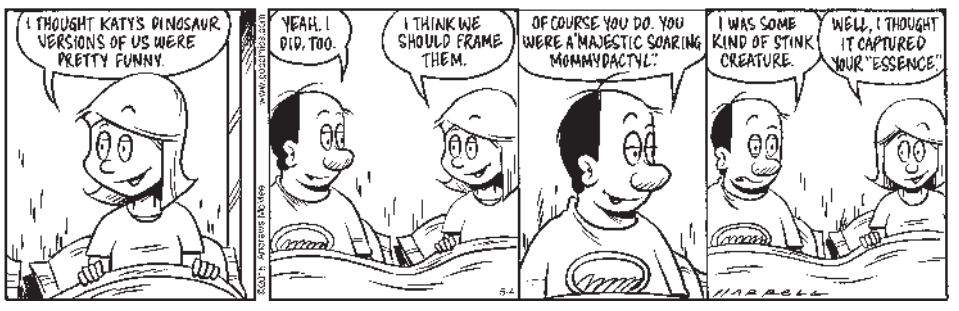
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


ARLENE...
HERE'S A PICTURE OF ME TO KEEP NEAR YOUR HEART
IF IT WERE ANY BIGGER, IT WOULD BE NEAR EVERYBODY'S HEART
WHAT A LOVELY THOUGHT!

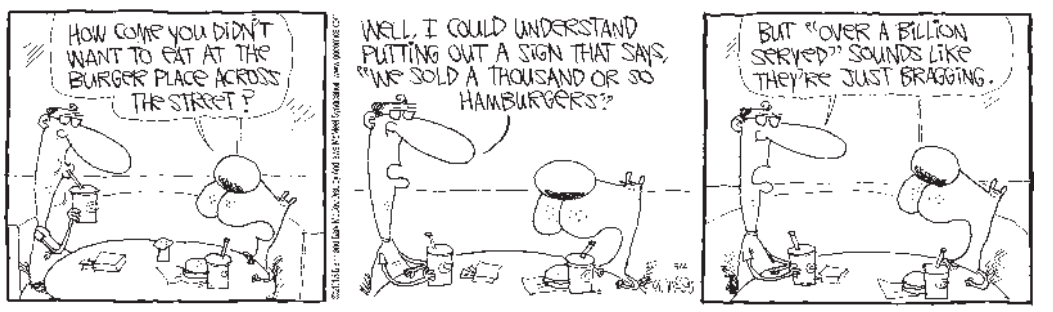
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I THOUGHT KATY'S DINOSAUR VERSIONS OF US WERE PRETTY FUNNY.
YEAH. I DID, TOO.
I THINK WE SHOULD FRAME THEM.
OF COURSE YOU DO. YOU WERE A MAJESTIC SOARING MOMMYPACTYL.
I WAS SOME KIND OF STINK CREATURE.
WELL, I THOUGHT IT CAPTURED YOUR "ESSENCE."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HOW COME YOU DIDN'T WANT TO EAT AT THE BURGER PLACE ACROSS THE STREET?
WELL, I COULD UNDERSTAND PUTTING OUT A SIGN THAT SAYS, "WE SOLD A THOUSAND OR SO HAMBURGERS?"
BUT "OVER A BILLION SERVED" SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE JUST BRAGGING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

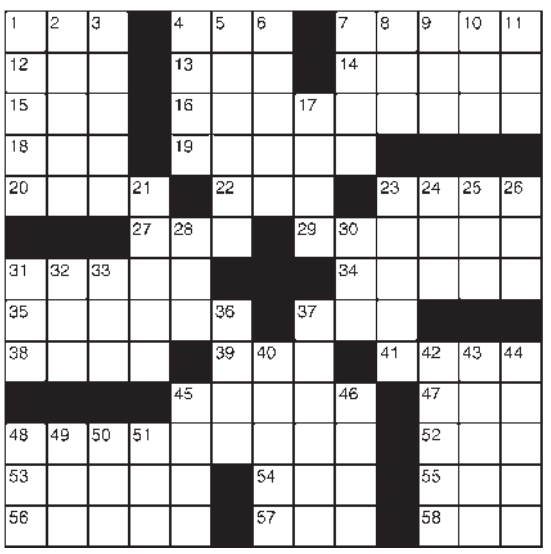
ACROSS
1 Day light?
4 Trio after Q
7 Short skirts
12 Nevertheless, briefly
13 Greek H
14 Computer symbols
15 Ump's call
16 Economic declines
18 Swiss canton
19 Dunkable treat
20 Tart flavor
22 Workout site
23 Warm and snug
27 Salt Lake athlete
29 Third-place medal
31 Colonial newscaster
34 Hooch
35 Chinese food assortment
37 Have a bug
38 Leopard's feature
39 Right angle
41 Ump's call
45 Follows
47 Crater part
48 Rejects
52 Tokyo's historic name
53 Guam's capital
54 PBS funder
55 Profit
56 Root (for)
57 NASCAR advertiser
58 Hearty brew

DOWN
1 Portly
2 "Star Trek" lieutenant
3 Away from the office
4 Sitcom star Foxx
5 Fall guy
6 Light brown
7 Baseball glove
8 Hosp. area
9 Fish-fowl link
10 Hostel
11 Sound from a hot wok
17 Feeling no pain
21 Invitee
23 Puts in the fridge
24 Lennon's lady
25 Snoring, in comics
26 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
28 Capote nickname
30 Slugger's stat
31 LPs' successors
32 Shred
33 "As I see it," to a texter
36 Anthropologist Margaret
37 Totally wrong
40 They have their pride
42 Concert venue
43 Cuba's Castro
44 Overact
45 Despot
46 Crisp cookie
48 Tic- — -toe
49 "Yecch!"
50 Arctic explorer John
51 SSW opposite

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	A	M		J	U	C	E		A	_	S	O
U	M	A		O	P	A	L		L	E	A	D
M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A		L	I	N	E
		A	R	Г		S	T	R	E	A	K	S
C	O	M	E	U	P		E	K	G			
A	Б	U		L	A	C		O	П	A	T	E
П	O	T	S		D	E	W		O	Б	E	Y
P	E	E	P	S		F	A	B		N	E	E
			A	T	A		C	E	M	O	N	S
C	H	E	R	U	B	S		H	A	R		
R	E	A	R		I	N	F	O	R	M	A	L
O	R	S	O		D	L	A	L		A	N	I
C	R	E	W		E	G	A	D		_	E	T

Yesterday's answer 5-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rory McIlroy, 29; Erin Andrews, 40; Will Arnett, 48; Randy Travis, 59.

Happy Birthday: A window of opportunity must not be disregarded. Be ready to step up and take on challenges without hesitation. Your ability to take charge will not go unnoticed, positioning you for interesting propositions as the year unfolds. Look at the big picture and decipher what it is you really want. Concentrate on turning your dream into a reality. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 28, 33, 42, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be careful how you handle others. Conversations can quickly turn into disagreements if you aren't willing to back down. Don't let anger take over when reason is what's needed. Give everyone the opportunity to have his or her own opinion. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Business trips or visiting relatives will give you greater insight into what's ahead. Dealing with supervisors, parents or individuals looking for your assistance will put you in a good position to ask for something you want in return. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of personal affairs. Medical issues should be a priority, and dealing with institutions will help you sum up what you should be doing to counter any problems you face. Listen to the voice of reason. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An emotional situation left unresolved will create stress. Talk to someone you trust or an expert who can help shed light on a situation that needs to be dealt with before it has the chance to grow into something unmanageable. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't share too much information with your colleagues or those trying to gather personal information. Caution will help you avoid being taken advantage of or slotted into a position that doesn't suit you. Change can be good if it's your choice. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You are in control. It's time to move forward and bring about the changes that will lead to a better life. Open up about your dreams with those you want to be a part of your future plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll face opposition. Problems at home will mount, and arguments are likely to take over if you try to do something that isn't favored by family or someone in a position of authority. Don't make an untimely move. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn all you can, and rely on your ability to ferret out hidden information that can help you make important decisions. Look at your relationships and make choices that will benefit the ones you love. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Someone from your past will reach out. Before you open up, find out why the sudden interest. It's in your best interest to proceed with caution. A lot of hype and empty promises will eventually turn into chaos and disappointment. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Secret conversations will be misinterpreted. It is best to have someone you trust along with you to take notes or be your backup if someone tries to accuse you or put you in a compromising position regarding what transpires. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let anyone take advantage of you or what you have to offer. If someone tries to coerce you into taking on responsibilities or getting involved in something that is too costly, take a pass and work alone. Focus on home and family. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Choose your associates based on what they have to offer and how beneficial it will be to you. Don't put up with anyone trying to manipulate you emotionally. Know what you want, and be relentless in your pursuit. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, eager and in control. You are progressive and unrelenting.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		4	8				7	
				1		2		
			9		2			
			7		5	4		6
8		7	3		9			
			6		4			
		5		3				
	3				1	6		9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	8	6	3	2	9	7	4	5
3	9	4	6	5	7	2	8	1
7	5	2	8	4	1	9	3	6
6	4	9	2	3	8	5	1	7
2	3	7	4	1	5	6	9	8
8	1	5	9	7	6	3	2	4
5	2	3	1	6	4	8	7	9
4	7	8	5	9	3	1	6	2
9	6	1	7	8	2	4	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BILLY GRAHAM (1918-2018) **Solution: 9 letters**

D	P	T	A	L	K	S	C	H	U	L	L	E	R	B
F	A	I	T	H	S	N	O	M	R	E	S	E	E	U
R	S	E	V	I	L	G	O	S	P	E	L	C	S	S
A	T	C	R	N	O	S	N	H	O	J	L	A	I	H
N	O	I	E	E	E	R	E	B	Ⓔ	L	I	E	V	E
K	R	O	W	V	H	A	U	S	Ⓟ	N	H	P	D	I
L	T	V	O	W	V	T	U	O	Ⓞ	H	N	E	A	C
I	R	L	H	E	R	S	U	T	Ⓗ	A	M	A	B	O
N	E	M	N	L	E	E	R	L	G	I	G	I	W	N
O	D	A	E	L	G	A	O	A	N	H	L	N	I	W
I	L	H	S	D	E	I	B	D	T	I	E	I	L	O
S	I	A	I	H	D	G	E	U	F	L	T	G	L	R
S	U	R	E	A	A	N	R	E	S	S	A	R	I	R
I	B	G	R	N	O	I	T	O	V	E	D	I	A	O
M	E	E	T	O	N	K	N	I	X	O	N	V	M	M

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Adviser, Altar, Anne, Believe, Bridge, Builder, Bush, Devotion, Eisenhower, Faith, Franklin, Gigi, Gospel, Graham, Heart, Heaven, Hills, Hope, Hour, Icon, Jesus, Johnson, King, Life, Live, Love, Martin Luther, Meet, Mission, Morrow, Ned, Nelson, Nixon, Obama, Pastor, Peace, Radio, Read, Robert, Ruth, Schuller, Sermons, Talks, Virginia, Voice, Well, William

Yesterday's Answer: Sand Clock

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Much Ado About Nothing

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position:
AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN

Job Description: Install, service and repair all types of air-conditions, washers, refrigerators, dryers, water heater and car air conditioning system in residences or commercial establishments. Do other related duties as may be required by management.

Minimum Qualifications: With at least 2-years of relevant work experience.

Other Special Requirements: Must have EPA Certification as a Technician.

Job Site: Tun Segundo Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

W&Z CORPORATION
dba HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING

Office Address: Tun Segundo Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 285-0680

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501666, Saipan, MP

Email Address:
haosairconditioning@gmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018
DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position:
MAINTENANCE WORKER

Job Description: Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs.

Minimum Qualifications: With at least 2 years of relevant work experience.

Other Special Requirements: Knows and familiar with the fundamentals of maintaining buildings and houses.

Job Sites: Mt. Tapochao, Chalan Laulau, and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

EARHART, INC.
Office Address: DHL Building, Chalan Laulau, Saipan
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 234-1600

Mailing Address: PMB 822,
P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address:
where_is_amalia@hotmail.com;
michael_dotts@hotmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018
DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: HOUSEWORKER
Job Description: Perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain a private household, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls, vacuuming, and cooking for the family.

Minimum Qualifications: With at least 2 years of relevant work experience.

Job Site: Mt. Tapochao, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

EARHART, INC.
Office Address: DHL Building,
Chalan Laulau, Saipan
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Telephone No.: (670) 234-1600

Mailing Address: PMB 822,
P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address:
where_is_amalia@hotmail.com;
michael_dotts@hotmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018
DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position:
BEAUTICIAN

Job Description: Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp. May apply makeup, dress wigs, perform hair removal, and provide nail and skin care services.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least high school graduate; With at least 2-years of relevant work experience.

Job Site: Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

AFH, INC. dba NATURAL NAIL SPA

Office Address: Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 233-6245

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503220, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address:
mhudkins@pticomcom

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018
DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Joseph O. Torres

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0127-CV
JOAQUIN SABLAN TORRES,	:	**NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
Deceased.	:	Date: May 17, 2018, Thursday Time: 9:00 am Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JOAQUIN SABLAN TORRES, OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Joseph O. Torres has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Joaquin Sablan Torres, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON**, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL W. DOTTS, Esq., F0150
DOTTS LAW OFFICE
Second Floor, DHL Building, Suite 208
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 822
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 234-1600
mdotts@dottslaw.law

Attorney for Administrator
Nicanor F. Norita

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VISITACION RANGAMAR FLORES, Deceased.

Civil Action No.: 03-0228D

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRS

TO: ALL HEIRS OF VISITACION RANGAMAR FLORES, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Determination of Heirs for the ESTATE OF VISTACION RANGAMAR FLORES (DECEASED) was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter. The hearing would normally be held in the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. However, due to issues with the Court House the hearing will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, at **9:00 a.m., on May 24, 2018.**

You may obtain a copy of the Petition from the Administrator's counsel during normal business hours. You may also obtain a copy from the Court. If you believe you are an heir, and if you are not listed on the Petition, it is very important for you to appear at the hearing and assert your claim as an heir.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2018.

Michael W. Dotts
Counsel for Administrator

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) STEEL WORKER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members. Verify vertical and horizontal alignment of structural steel members, using plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels. Cut, bend, or weld steel pieces, using metal shears, torches, or welding equipment. Erect metal or precast concrete components for structures, such as buildings, bridges, dams, towers, storage tanks, fences, or highway guard rails. Force structural steel members into final positions, using turnbuckles, crowbars, jacks, or hand tools. Pull, push, or pry structural steel members into approximate positions for bolting into place. Travel may be necessary to the other islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which include Saipan, Tinian & Rota, to perform work on different construction projects.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 48 months experience in Construction; and
- Knowledge in using welding machine and power tools.

Interested individuals please send your resume
with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification
card & updated police clearance to:

Anita Pagulayan, Vice President/Contracts Manager
GPPC, Inc.
Tun Kioshi Kileleman Rd., As Perdido
P.O. Box 504357 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-7900 ext. 810
E-mail: anniep@gppcinc.com or rubyqt@gppcinc.com

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers. Code documents according to company procedures. Perform financial calculations, such as amounts due, interest charges, balances, discounts, equity, and principal. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Perform general office duties, such as filing, answering telephones, and handling routine correspondence. Access computerized financial information to answer general questions as well as those related to specific accounts.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 36 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk; &
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Anita Pagulayan, Vice President/Contracts Manager
GPPC, Inc.
Tun Kioshi Kileleman Rd., As Perdido
P.O. Box 504357 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-7900 ext. 810
E-mail: anniep@gppcinc.com;rubyqt@gppcinc.com

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

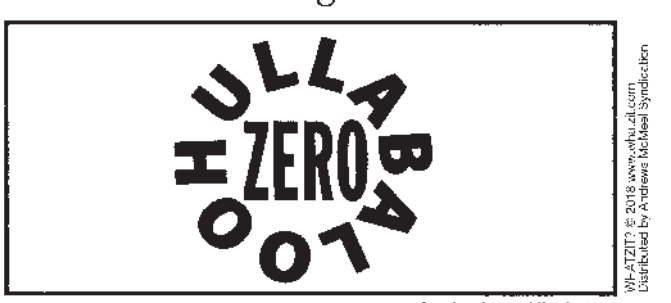
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

TAGA SPORTS
APRIL - JUNE 2018 EDITION
The CNMI's premier sports magazine is now available on
issuu.com/tagasports

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Severino, Stanton power Yankees past Astros

HOUSTON (AP)—Luis Severino didn't think he'd be allowed to finish his marvelous performance Wednesday.

When he was told he was going back out for the ninth inning, he made sure to close it out.

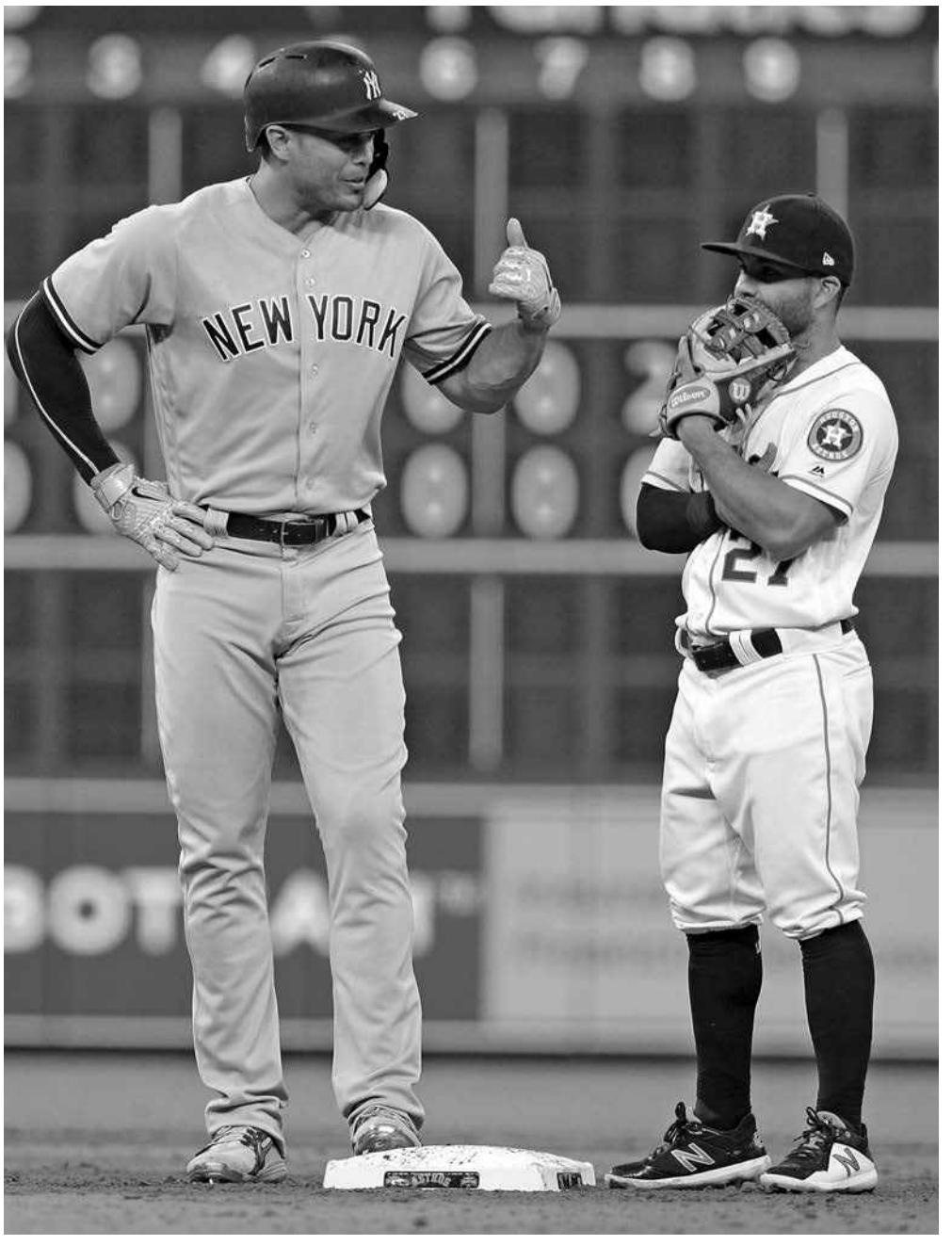
Severino pitched a five-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his first career complete game, Giancarlo Stanton homered twice and drove in four runs, and the New York Yankees beat the World Series champion Houston Astros 4-0 for the second consecutive night.

"When they told me, I was happy," Severino said about staying in for the ninth. "I was feeling good. My fastball was there. Changeup, slider, I was feeling very good."

Stanton hit a two-run homer to right field that just made it over the wall in the first inning. He added a solo homer to left off Yankees nemesis Dallas Keuchel (1-5) in the fourth and tacked on an RBI double in the eighth.

The first home run by Stanton was the first Keuchel had ever allowed to the Yankees, who have won 11 of their last 12 games.

"I got good pitches to hit, was on time, got the barrel on them," Stanton said. "(Severino) put us in the best situation possible."



AP

New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton, left, chats with Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve after Stanton's RBI double during the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 2, 2018, in Houston.

Red Sox 5, Royals 4

In Boston, Mookie Betts belted three solo homers and J.D. Martinez also went deep, powering the Red Sox to a victory over the Kansas City Royals.

It was the fourth three-homer game for the 25-year-old Betts, snapping a tie with Hall of Famer Ted Williams for most three-homer games in franchise history.

AL East-leading Boston won for the third time in four games after losing 7-6 in 13 innings on Tuesday night.

Indians 12, Rangers 4

In Cleveland, Edwin Encarnacion homered three times and drove in six runs, helping the Indians to the runaway win.

Encarnacion hit a three-homer in the first, a two-run shot in the second and a solo drive in the eighth. The designated hitter leads the team with nine homers despite a .191 batting average.

Braves 7, Mets 0

In New York, Mets right-hander Jacob deGrom was pulled after four dominant innings with a hyperextended right elbow, and the Braves broke out against the bullpen to back a stellar start by Sean Newcomb.

DeGrom pitched smoothly through the heart of Atlanta's order in his final inning. But he was replaced by Paul Sewald (0-2) to begin the fifth.

Nationals 9, Pirates 3

In Washington, Bryce Harper hit a leadoff homer and drove in three runs, Stephen Strasburg struck out 11 and the Nationals earned their fourth straight win.

Matt Adams clubbed his third homer in two games for Washington.

Rockies 11, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Nolan Arenado hit two of Colorado's four homers and drove in five runs, lifting the Rockies to the road win.

Arenado hit a long two-run homer to center off Yu Darvish (0-3) in the first inning.

Cardinals 3, White Sox 2

In St. Louis, Cardinals ace Carlos Martinez hit his first major league home run and threw 7 1/3 effective innings.

Dexter Fowler added a two-run homer for the Cardinals, who won their second game in a row.

Brewers 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Christian Yelich homered, Wade Miley pitched six effective innings in his Milwaukee debut and the Brewers swept the sloppy Reds.

Yelich hit a tiebreaking drive to right off Luis Castillo (1-4) in the fifth.

Twins 4, Blue Jays 0

In Minneapolis, Fernando Romero pitched four-hit ball into the sixth inning in his major league debut, giving Minnesota a badly needed boost.

Eddie Rosario homered for the Twins, who won for only the second time in their last 13 games.

Tigers 3, Rays 2

In Detroit, JaCoby Jones led off the 12th inning with a triple and scored on John Hicks' bunt single, lifting Detroit to the victory.

Hicks bunted toward first and the Rays didn't have a chance to make a play at the plate.

Phillies 6, Marlins 0

In Miami, Aaron Nola allowed four hits in 7 1/3 innings, helping Philadelphia stop a four-game slide.

Nola (4-1) retired 17 consecutive batters at one point. He struck out seven and walked one.

Giants 9, Padres 4

In San Francisco, Nick Hundley matched his career high with four hits, Brandon Crawford broke out of a lengthy slump with three RBI and the Giants beat the Padres.

Austin Jackson added two hits and two RBI, and Derek Holland (1-3) pitched five innings for his first win of the season for San Francisco.

Athletics 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, James Paxton struck out a major league-high 16 in seven dominant innings, but the Seattle bullpen blew a late lead and the Oakland Athletics rallied past the Mariners.

Paxton was overpowering in arguably the finest performance of his career, posting the highest strikeout total by a Seattle pitcher since Randy Johnson fanned 19 on Aug. 8, 1997. He got 14 A's on swinging strikeouts.

Woods alongside Masters champ Reed at Wells Fargo

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tiger Woods returns to the PGA Tour for his first start since tying for 32nd last month at Augusta National and he will be grouped with the man he finished 14 strokes behind—Masters champion Patrick Reed.

Woods, Reed and Brooks Koepka, who returned to competition last week at the Zurich Classic following an extended stay on the disabled list with a wrist injury, will be grouped together for Rounds 1 and 2 at the Wells Fargo Championship.

The threesome will tee off on the first hole at 12:50 p.m. (ET). The group will begin their round on No. 10 on Friday at 7:40 a.m.

The threesome just ahead of Woods and Co. will also be compelling, with Justin Thomas and Brian Harman playing with Rickie Fowler.

Thomas won last year's PGA Championship at Quail Hollow and Harman won the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship, which was played at Eagle Point Golf Club in Wilmington, N.C. Fowler won the Wells Fargo Championship in 2012.

On the other side of the draw, Phil Mickelson, who has nine top-10 finishes in Charlotte, will play with Jason Day and Daniel Berger, teeing off on the 10th tee at 7:40 a.m. on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Rory McIlroy tried everything he could to forget about golf in the days following the Masters.

He binge-watched "Billions." He read a couple of books: "The Chimp Paradox" and "Essentialism." And he knocked back a few bottles of wine—"that sounds really bad; it wasn't that bad," McIlroy said with a sheepish grin—before his wife Erica finally had enough and dragged him out of the house.

She told him they needed to go do something—anything. All of that other stuff wasn't working.

McIlroy was upset after a final round 74 at Augusta National last month kept him from winning the one major that has eluded the 28-year-old during his exceptional professional career.

"The Masters has become the biggest golf tournament in the world and I'm comfortable saying that," McIlroy said. "I don't care about the U.S. Open or The Open Championship. It is the biggest tournament in the world. It has the most amount of eyeballs, the most amount of hype. The most amount of everything is at Augusta."

So not winning affected McIlroy a little more than your average tournament.

He played in the final pairing alongside Reed, but could never muster a charge. The three-shot deficit he started with that day stretched to six by the time he walked off the course. He finished tied for fifth at 9 under, six strokes behind Reed.

McIlroy said in the days that followed he spent time replaying bad shots in his head.

"It was just the quiet moments when you're staring off into the distance and you're thinking about a certain shot or a certain putt and you're just like. ... Yeah, it got to the point where I needed to see a bit of daylight and get outside and go for walks and start to do my usual thing," McIlroy said.

But he said he's focused on moving on.

Giants decline fifth-year option on Flowers

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—A person with direct knowledge of the decision tells The Associated Press that the New York Giants have declined to pick up the fifth-year option of offensive tackle Ereck Flowers' contract.

The Giants would have been on the hook for $12.5 million in 2019 had the Giants exercised the option on the deal Flowers signed as the ninth pick overall in the 2014 draft.

The person spoke to The AP on the condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the move.

NFL.com was the first to report the decision.

Flowers has been the Giants' starting left tackle for the past three seasons, but he has been a disappointment.

General manager Dave Gettleman signed New England Patriots left tackle Nate Solder as a free agent in March. The move meant that Flowers would play right tackle this upcoming season, but he has not showed up for the team's voluntary workouts this spring.

Flowers recently hired Drew Rosenhaus as his agent. Flowers' father had represented him. His future with the team remains uncertain.

In other moves, the Giants signed defensive tackle A.J. Francis and quarterback Alex Tanney. They also announced they had been awarded cornerback C.J. Goodwin off waivers from the Arizona Cardinals. Goodwin was released on Tuesday.

Mitchell's dunk highlights Jazz's Game 2 win

HOUSTON (AP)—Utah had a four-point lead in the fourth quarter on Wednesday night when Donovan Mitchell missed a jumper and sailed above three Houston Rockets to grab the rebound and finish with a nifty one-handed slam.

He did it right near the Jazz bench and his teammates went wild, cheering and pretending to fall backward on each other in awe.

Joe Ingles led the Jazz with a career-high 27 points, but it was the star rookie who provided the highlight of the night as the Jazz evened the Western Conference semifinals 1-1 with a 116-108 win.

Ingles made a career-best seven 3-pointers and Mitchell added 17 points and a franchise rookie-record 11 assists for his first game this postseason where he scored fewer than 20 points and didn't lead the team in scoring.

But he certainly provided an emotional boost to his team with his highlight-reel worthy play. He smiled broadly when it was brought up postgame, and said he was just trying to get the rebound on his miss when he made a split-second decision.

"I just happened to be up there," he said. "So I said: `Why come down with it?"

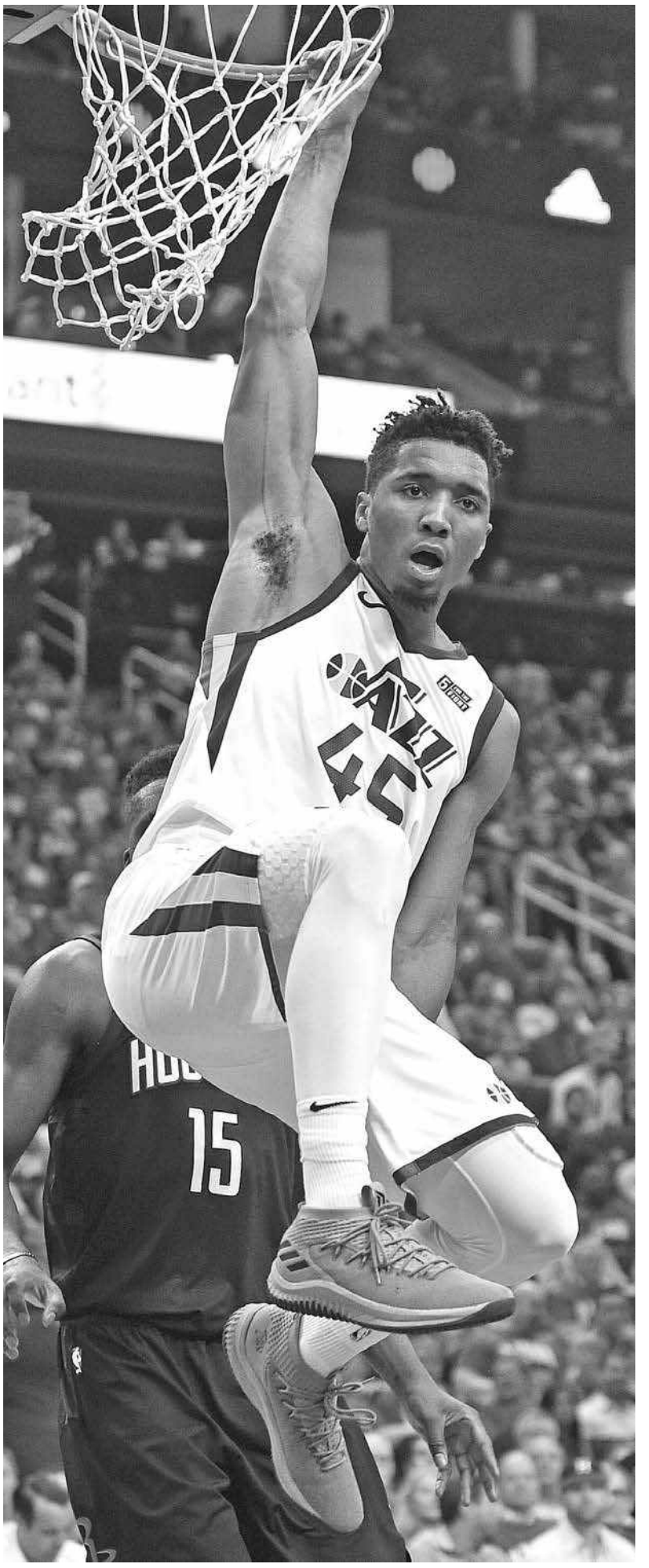
The Jazz squandered a huge early lead before using a big fourth quarter to regain control and head home for Game 3 on Friday in Utah with a chance to take a series lead over the top-seeded Rockets.

Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said Mitchell was the key to the win even though he didn't lead the team in scoring.

"He was breaking us down," D'Antoni said. "He was getting in there and was finding guys in the corner. He's a handful whether he's finishing or not."

The Jazz were behind by two with eight minutes left before using a 16-2 run to pull away.

After trailing by 25 points at halftime of the 110-96 loss in the series opener, the Jazz jumped out to an early lead in this one and led by as many as 19 in the first half.



AP

Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell hangs from the rim after his dunk during the second half in Game 2 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Houston Rockets, Wednesday, May 2, 2018, in Houston.

"Last game, we came out completely opposite. Tonight, they kind of caught us off-guard," Houston's James Harden said. "We adjusted to it in that second quarter, but we can't get down 19 no matter who we're playing."

Houston regained the lead in the third quarter but couldn't keep pace with the Jazz in the fourth as their normally potent offense went cold.

Harden had 32 points and 11 assists, and Chris Paul added 23 points as Houston fell to the Jazz for the first time this season after winning the first five meetings.

Jazz coach Quin Snyder was pleased at his team's balanced scoring effort on a night six players finished in double figures, and he raved about the contribution of Ingles.

"Every time Joe has needed to step up his game, he has been able to," Snyder said. "He's committed to that. He knew tonight he would need to make some shots and he was able to do it."

Houston was down by one entering the fourth but Utah scored eight straight points on 3-pointers from Dante Exum and Jae Crowder before Mitchell's dunk made it 100-94.

Harden made a basket after that before Utah scored another eight straight points, with two 3s from Ingles, to make it 108-96 with 4 1/2 minutes left.

Harden ended a 2 1/2-minute Houston scoring drought with a 3-pointer about a minute later that was the start of a 9-3 run that got the Rockets within 111-105 with 1:46 left. But Rudy Gobert made one of two free throws before Exum put it out of reach with a dunk.

Utah led by nine before Houston used a 16-5 run to go up 71-69 for its first lead since it was 6-5 with about seven minutes left in the third. The Jazz went back up 86-85 by the end of the period.

After taking just four shots in Game 1 and finishing with 11 points, Gobert got going early Wednesday and had 13 points on 5-of-7 shooting by halftime. But he was mostly quiet after the break, and finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Suns hire Jazz assistant Kokoskov as new head coach

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns have hired Utah Jazz assistant Igor Kokoskov as their new head coach.

The 46-year-old Serbian becomes the first NBA head coach born and raised outside North America. He served as a Suns assistant from 2008 to 2013, a stretch that included Phoenix's 2010 run to the Western Conference finals.

Kokoskov agreed to terms with the Suns after the team conducted a long series of initial interviews followed by second interviews with what general manager Ryan McDonough termed "a handful" of finalists.

Kokoskov inherits an exceedingly young team that compiled a 21-61 record, worst in the NBA and second-worst in franchise history.

He succeeds interim coach Jay Triano, who took over after Earl Watson was fired three games into the season.

In a statement announcing the hiring, McDonough said Kokoskov "has been a pioneer throughout his basketball career and he brings a wealth of high-level coaching experience to our club."

"He was one of the first non-American born assistant coaches at both the NCAA and NBA levels and his most recent coaching stint includes leading the Slovenian national team to the 2017 EuroBasket title, which was the first European title in the history of the country," McDonough said. "Igor's teams have always had a player development focus, a creative style of play and a track record of success."

Kokoskov was with the Jazz in Houston on Wednesday night, where they met the Rockets in the second game of their Western Conference semifinal playoff series. He will take over the Suns as soon as his duties with the Jazz are completed.

He is in his 18th season as an NBA assistant coach. In addition to the Jazz and Suns, Kokoskov was an assistant at Orlando (2015), Cleveland (2013-14), Detroit (2003-2008) and Los Angeles Clippers (2000-2003).

He became a U.S. citizen on June 18, 2010, in a ceremony on the court at Phoenix's Talking Stick Resort Arena. He and his family have kept a home in the Phoenix area since his time with the Suns.

Liverpool goes from qualifier to Champions League finalist

ROME (AP)—Way back in August when Liverpool was sweating its way through the playoffs just to qualify for the Champions League group phase, going all the way to the final wasn't even on the Reds radar.

Not after a season in which Liverpool didn't even play in Europe.

Not when no one could have imagined that Mohamed Salah would develop into a scorer to rival Lionel Messi. Or that Liverpool would score a Champions League-record 46 goals—surpassing the mark set by Barcelona in 1999-2000.

Yet 10 months later, Liverpool is going to face two-time defending champion Real Madrid for the most coveted trophy in club football.

Liverpool advanced to its first Champions League final in more than a decade despite a 4-2 loss at Roma on Wednesday.

The Reds scored two early goals and that was all they needed to advance 7-6 on aggregate after a 5-2 win in the first leg of the semifinals.

"We came in as a qualifier and now we're in the final," Liverpool coach Juergen Klopp said. "Now we will go to Kiev, which sounds crazy but is the truth. We will go to Kiev."

The final is scheduled for May 26 in Ukraine.

Sadio Mane took advantage of a misplaced Roma pass to put Liverpool ahead nine minutes in and Georginio Wijnaldum restored the advantage with a header after Milner's own goal.

Edin Dzeko equalized for Roma early in the second half and Radja Nainggolan scored two late goals for the hosts as the Giallorossi narrowly missed out on another miracle after their stunning 3-0 second-leg victory over Barcelona in the quarterfinals.

"Tonight was all about getting the job done," said Liverpool midfielder James Milner, who scored an own goal.

Madrid beat Bayern Munich 4-3 on aggregate in the other semifinal.

"These fans deserve to be in the final, and they'll have a great time in Kiev regardless of the result," Liverpool defender Andy Robertson said. "We ended up losing tonight, but they threw everything at us."

Roma was left feeling aggrieved about two penalty decisions that weren't given.

"The VAR would have given us what was taken from us tonight," Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco said. "That was ridiculous. ... But Liverpool certainly didn't steal anything from us. They played 45 extraordinary minutes (in the first leg) and we played two second halves that were just as extraordinary."

Liverpool last reached the final in 2007, when it lost to AC Milan, having won the last of its five titles over Milan two years earlier.

The 13 goals scored between the two legs was a record for a Champions League semifinal.

"When two squads play in an open manner like that, it's more like a boxing match," Di Francesco said. "There should be more matches like these."

Klopp was full of complements for Roma.

"What a performance, what a comeback. What a brave football game," the German manager said. "It was the first time we were not as good as we can be. So we needed luck."

Triathlon head to motorists: Share the road

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Ricky Castro has asked motorist to share the road with local cyclists after being hit by a car last Saturday along Beach Road.

Castro told *Saipan Tribune* that he and fellow TRAC official Manny Sitchon were going southbound after their usual weekend morning ride when the incident happened.

"It was our usual weekend ride from Banzai Cliff. We were already on our way home so we're taking our time. We were inside the bike lane approaching National Office Supply," said Castro, who lost consciousness after the accident.

"When I woke up, I was already lying down on the road and there were people around me. The one who hit me was also going southbound," added Castro,

He said that he was able to talk to the driver of the car that hit him. "[The driver] said he fell asleep. He then veered to the [left] then quickly steered his wheel [to the right] and we were there. That's when I got hit."

The driver of the car is 19 years old, according to Castro, who is already at home recovering from his injuries. *Saipan Tribune* tried to get a copy of the official incident report, but the Department of Public Safety has yet to release it.

Meanwhile, cycling enthusiast Marian Aldan-Pierce, in a Facebook post, also appealed to motorists to be careful when bikers and runners are on the road.

"Runners and bikers use the shoulders because we do not have dedicated bike lanes. Please help make our roads safe for bikers, pedestrians, runners, [and] for everyone," Aldan-Pierce said

This was the second recorded bike-related accident this year after 49-year-old Noe Valdisimo was allegedly hit by an Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) bus last January. Valdisimo has sued IPI and the bus driver.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The bicycle of Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Ricky Castro is seen wedged in front of the vehicle that hit him and his bike last Saturday morning.

Wimbledon warns players over injury withdrawals

LONDON—Wimbledon officials warned players on Tuesday they face losing prize money if they withdraw after competing with an existing injury and are not perceived to have given maximum effort.

The All England Club will introduce the "50:50" rule at this year's Wimbledon in an attempt to prevent injury withdrawals in the opening round of the men's and women's singles events.

Several players were widely criticised last year when they played in first-round matches at Wimbledon, despite being clearly unfit, in order to claim the prize money for losing at that stage.

There were a total of seven mid-match withdrawals in the 2017 tournament.

With an increased purse of £39,000 ($53,000) on offer to first-round losers this year, tournament chiefs are keen to clamp down on the issue.

Players will now be able to claim 50 percent of their first-round prize money if they withdraw on site by the Thursday before the start of the main draw.

An injured player's replacement would take the other 50 percent of the prize money.

But anyone who competes in the first round and "retires or performs below professional standards" could now be fined their entire prize pot.

"In the wake of first-round withdrawals we pledged to act on it, and we have done so," said Wimbledon chief executive Richard Lewis.

The 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million, a small increase of £50,000 on last year.

Roger Federer and Garbine Muguruza won the men's and women's titles in 2017.

Lower-ranked players at Wimbledon will enjoy a greater uplift, with an increase of 10 percent across qualifying and the first to fourth rounds of the singles, boosting the overhaul prize money total to £34 million this year.

The haul is larger than the Australian Open's £31 million, but slightly less than the £34.5 million available at this year's French Open. The US Open is yet to announce this year's total prize money.

Wimbledon, which starts on July 2, will reject a "shot clock" on court to monitor time taken between points.

"We aren't totally convinced yet," said Lewis. "The rule is there to be enforced by the umpires. The visibility could be counter-productive. We are very content with wait and see for now."

KANOA

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for Kanoa-2, recording her first in the 19th minute and the second in the 34th. Krizel Tuazon and Therize Millare contributed one goal apiece for the losing squad.

Meanwhile, MY Pros handed MP United-1 its first loss after escaping with a 2-1 victory in their Division B game at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School last Sunday.

Soledad Quan posted the go-ahead goal for MY Pros in the 39th minute, while Christen Steinkuller registered the other one in the first half. MY Pros now has a 4-0-1 record to tie MP United-1 in first place. Chiharu Sato delivered the lone goal for MP United-1.

In other results, Paire nipped MP United-2, 2-1, while Tan-Holdings shut down Shirley's FC, 7-0.

Paire improved to a 3-0-2 mark for second place in the team standings, while MP United-2 is at third with its 1-1-3 slate. Tan-Holdings moved out of the cellar after notching its first victory in four games, while Shirley's is still winless in four matches.

In the Masters division, Matansa defeated Topnotch, which later battled back and downed TanHoldings.

ENDO

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I believe everyone that experiences KONQER, whether the sponsors or participants, they understand the massive task that's being completed," Endo told *Saipan Tribune.*

"They [sponsors and participants] are so patient and understanding because they all understand that this is just as important to us as it is to them. The love and support we receive is immeasurable."

He added that the first KONQER Saipan in September was a huge learning experience.

"On what is possible and not possible to source locally and we must be better prepared on that end. Without getting into the weeds too much, I think we have room to improve the course pace, timing, supply chain, and logistics. Manpower continues to be a challenge both in availability and cost, but we KONQER'D it!" he said.

Endo said the most important thing is that all participants enjoyed their events. "Overall, I believe no matter what we think, it is the opinion of the Brigade that matters most. Many have come up and thanked me for a much improved event."

"Although they loved K4, Saipan's first KONQER event [in September 2017], they enjoyed K6 [April 28] even better. Now, we look forward to the Rota Challenge and next year's KONQER Saipan."

The Rota Challenge is an eco-adventure race set in the CNMI's southernmost island this summer.

He said that each of their three races every year has been different, giving participants the unique experience.

"Comparing any of our KONQER events is like talking about your children. The parents who are reading this will know what I mean. It's hard to say, 'this is my favorite' or 'this is my least favorite.' The races are all different and they bring a unique and lasting impression on how we move forward," the KONQER Sports official said.

Endo said the weather cooperated in last Saturday's race unlike last year when rain provided participants additional challenge.

"We've been blessed with a good weather and an awesome showing from the KONQER Brigade. This being said, the weather was so much better to us since we did it in April and we did not face condition one rains and winds unlike last year," he said.

Tyce Mister topped this year's race, earning him a free ticket in the Guam leg set for June 16 and the Palau race in October.

HYATT

From Page 31

cessfully earning his second Championship Flight White Bathrobe after playing steady in the 18-hole of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. The White Bathrobe has been the Hyatt golf's version of the Green Jacket given to the winner of The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia.

"Every Hyatt GM meeting that I attend, they always ask me about the golf tournament. It has somewhat become a popular event in the Asia Pacific region," said Nishikawa during yesterday's donation presentation to the six beneficiaries of the fundraiser.

"It has become famous and one of the exciting tournaments on the island. We understand its importance and we've become part of the community, a community that we continuously support as they have also supported us through the years."

The golf tournament raised a total of $65,000 with the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam and the CNMI—its regular beneficiary—receiving $15,000. Five other organizations—the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, the Dandan Middle School STEM and Garden Club, Saipan Paddling Club, Salvation Army, and the 670 Sonics—got $10,000 each.

The representatives of the six organizations thanked Hyatt for the donation. The five groups that received $10,000 noted that every year Hyatt officials and the golf tournament organizers have difficulty selecting which group would be the recipients of the proceeds from the event so they are fortunate to be chosen this year.

Hyatt food and beverage director Ty Pauling said they usually start meeting for the next tournament sometime in November and they form a team of 20 to 30 of their staff to be part of the organizing committee.

"Mark your calendars, the next tournament will be on April 27. The organizing committee would start planning by November and we will also begin sending out solicitation letters to potential sponsors," said Pauling. "This year, we have Robing Sapong and Zen Tomokane as tournament co-directors. We have an amazing support staff that has worked tirelessly as members of the committee. We're just a funnel, a vessel for the community."

MCDONALD'S

From Page 32

cerest appreciation to McDonald's Saipan for more than a decade of strong commitment to our all athletes, coaches, and sports family."

PSS athletics program director Nick Gross also thanked the local McDonald's food chain for being a staunch supporter of the annual track and field event for 14 years. "On behalf of PSS, I would like to commend McDonald's for their unwavering support."

"This annual CNMI-wide athletics event has helped our community focus on the promotion of public health through access to fitness in competitive format facilitated by the NMA," Gross said.

He added that the continuous support given by McDonald's has allowed thousands of the local youth to be part of a competitive track and field event every year.

"The [All Schools] has been a model partnership between the NMA, PSS, and local McDonald's franchise and it has grown into a wonderful community event. I'd also like to thank NMA for its hard work every year to continually provide this opportunity to the CNMI youth."

FIESTA

From Page 32

Fiesta Resort players hit the board in their lopsided victory against the shorthanded Lady Ol'Aces.

Connie Camacho tried to step up for the Lady Ol'Aces and finished with a game-high 10 markers, but could not get enough support from her teammates. Beverly Camacho and Aiko Rasiang chipped in 4 points each, but their baskets were made with Fiesta Resort in full control of the semis tiff.

Meanwhile, in the continuation of the regular season of the men's division, the Ol'Aces Extra snapped a three-game losing skid after outclassing Casino, 84-79.

Leroy Rangamar was again at the forefront of the Ol'Acex Extra's offense, as he posted a game-high 22 points, 13 of them came in the second half to give his team more cushion. Nak Nakashima and Peter Camacho contributed 12 each, while Jesse Santos and Jawn Joyner logged 10 apiece.

Sonny Marinay led Casino's losing cause with his 19 points.

Fiesta Resort 40 — Alegre 9, Pagarao 8, Watanabe 8, Tuazon 5, Kautz 4, Pablo 2, Camacho 2, Flores 2.

Lady Ol'Aces 22 — C. Camacho 10, B. Camacho 4, Rasiang 4, Kenty 2, K. Rangamar 2.

Kim avenges loss to Chung, takes U12 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Helen Kim got back at her tormentor, Serin Chung, after winning their girls U12 singles title game in the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Kim, who was stunned by Serin in the semifinals in last month's 2018 CNMI Junior Tennis Champions to eventually settle for third place, this time finished on top after sweeping her rival in the finals, 6-2, 6-2. With the title win, Kim notched her second crown in the division, as she also topped the 2017 Coconut Tennis Classic held last February at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The No. 1 seed Kim marched into the championship match after eliminating Savita Sikkel, 6-4, 6-3, and Boome Park, 6-2, 6-0, at the upper half of the draw. Sikkel and Park earned the right to face Kim in the quarterfinals and semis after beating Hoo Wang, 0-6, 6-2, 10-8, and Yejin Son, 6-4, 6-3, respectively.

Serin, on the other hand, ousted Anna Kwon, 6-0, 6-1, and Dana Lee, 6-4, 6-3, at the lower half of the draw to notch the second finals ticket. Lee, earlier, won over Seiyul Hong, 6-1, 6-4, and Kwon prevailed against Soarin Oh, 7-5, 6-0, 10-4, before bowing to Serin. Hong advanced after a victory via walkover against Irin Chung.

Meanwhile, Hyejin Elliot was the other winner in the girls singles division contest (U16) in the opening week of the Pacific Islands Club-organized tournament. Elliot defeated Anika Okawa, 6-0, 6-1.

In other results in Week 1, the pair of Raj Rai and Ryan Cho triumphed in the men's 4.0 doubles after slipping past Roy Pangelinan and Ken Imaya in a three-set finale.

The champions eked out a 7-6 victory in the first set, but missed the sweep when Pangelinan and Imaya prevailed in the second in similar scores. Then in the deciding third set, Rai and Cho regained their bearings and took a 6-3 win.

Rai and Cho moved into the finals after sweeping Nakaya and Kami in the semis, while Pangelinan and Imaya won the other Final Four match versus Gary Ramsey and Eric Abragan, 6-0, 7-5.

In the women's open doubles, the mother-and-daughter tandem Lydia and Tania Tan drew first blood in the round-robin contest after dominating Chizuka and Reika Nakaya, 6-0, 6-1. Malika Miyawaki and Coume Kaga are the other players entered in the division, which will continue its games this weekend to determine the champions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Helen Kim, seen here serving during a junior tournament earlier this season, topped the U12 singles event of last weekend's 2018 PIC Tennis Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire's Gillian Villagomez tries to keep the possession during an earlier Division A game against Kanoa-2 in the 2018 Dove Spring Women's League at the TSL Sports Complex's artificial turf. She scored all four goals in Paire's 4-2 win over Shirley's FC last week.

Kanoa-1, Paire down Division A foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club-1 kept its undefeated record, while Paire recovered quickly in the Division A of the 2018 Dove Spring Women's League.

An 8-4 victory over sister team Kanoa-2 last week at the TSL Sports Complex's artificial turf gave Kanoa-1 a 4-1-0 win-draw-loss record, while Paire improved to a 3-0-2 slate following a 4-2 triumph over Shirley's FC. Kanoa-2 fell to a 2-1-2 mark for third place behind Kanoa-1 and Paire, while TanHoldings (1-0-3) and Shirley's (1-0-4) are at the bottom two of the team standings.

Paire, which bowed to Kanoa-1 last April 19 (6-8) drew all of its four goals from Gillian Villagomez to beat Shirley's. Villagomez hit the board in the third, sixth, 10th, and 18th minute, while Shirley's got its pair of goals from Diana Maniacop and Katrina Costales in the fourth and 10th, respectively.

In the other Division A match, Paulynn Joyce stood out for Kanoa-1 in its easy win over Kanoa-2. Joyce nailed five goals in succession, starting her string of shots in the 14th minute, while his last four came in the 11th, 22nd, 23rd, and 37th. Kristelle Itaas made the two other goals for Kanoa-1, while Princess Alcantara added one.

Irish Pagarao had a brace

See KANOA on Page 30

Hyatt golf tourney delivers for the community

By JON PEREZ
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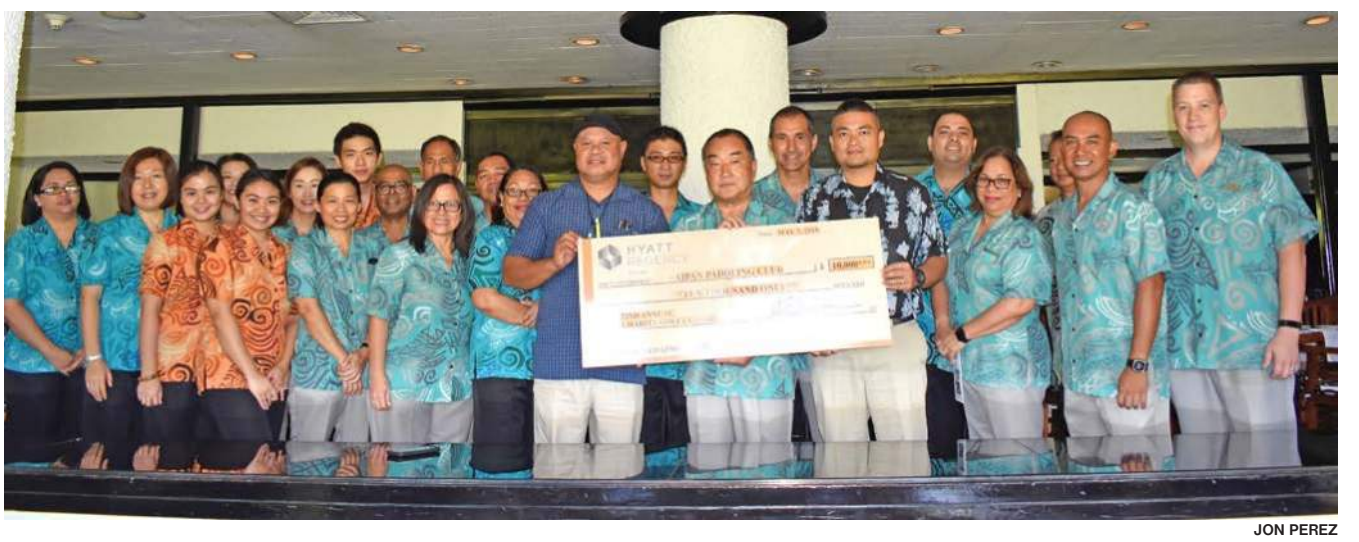
REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa said the annual Hyatt Charity Golf Classic has become an important part of the community, as it has been helping countless organizations for more than two decades.

The 22nd edition of Hyatt Regency Saipan's signature fundraising tournament was held last April 7, with 14-year-old Edward Lee suc-

See HYATT on Page 30

JON PEREZ
The 670 Sonics officials receive the $10,000 ceremonial check donation made by Hyatt Regency Saipan, led by general manager Nick Nishikawa, second right.



JON PEREZ
Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, center, presents the ceremonial check to Saipan Paddling Club president Justin Andrew and member Glenn Muna yesterday at the Giovanni's.

Severino, Stanton power Yankees past Astros

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Sports

Mitchell's dunk highlights Jazz's Game 2 win

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Fiesta Resort barges into finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan capitalized on the depleted Lady Ol'Aces crew to cruise to a 40-22 victory in their semis game in the women's division of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With the easy win, Fiesta Resort booked the second finals ticket and will face the Ol'Aces in a best-of-three title series that will start this Monday.

The Lady Ol'Aces, who defeated Fiesta Resort in their two outings in the preliminary round, failed to make it three in a row, as the former played without the injured Lia Rangamar and Taz Deleon Guerrero.

Fiesta Resort, on the other hand, paraded a nearly complete lineup and had their key players present for the make-or-break game. With enough manpower, Fiesta Resort dominated the Lady Ol'Aces right from the get-go en route to its 18-point winning margin and a trip to the finals.

Madi Alegre led Fiesta Resort's balance scoring after recording 9 points. Irish Pagarao and Nanaka Watanabe added 8 each, while Krizel Tuazon and Mikky Kautz combined for 9 more markers. Three other

See FIESTA on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Irish Pagarao, right, drives baseline against a Lady Ol'Aces defender during their regular season game in the women's division of the MIBF island-wide caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ
McDonald's Middle Road branch manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., right, hands over the $3,000 check donation to Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon A. Tebuteb during last Wednesday's presentation.

McDonald's, NMA provides opportunities to youth

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon A. Tebuteb said the over a decade partnership between their association and the local McDonald's franchise has provided countless opportunities for the CNMI's young athletes.

Athletes who are products of the annual McDonald's/Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championships are given chances to compete, not only at the local level but also at the international scene.

"Our affiliation with the International Association of Athletics Federations and the Oceania Athletics Association provides opportunity and access to our aspiring athletes to rub elbows and compete with elite professional athletes from around the world," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that the local McDonald's franchise has been one of the consistent supporters of their youth development program, even when the NMA was still known as the Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field Federation.

"They are our most consistent supporter even way before we began our official partnership in 2005. Like most non-profit organization that volunteers tirelessly to the program, the NMA is in debt to McDonald's Saipan for their generosity and unselfish contribution to our athletes," said Tebuteb.

"I can only express our strongest gratitude and sin-

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Endo: Every KONQER event a learning experience

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

KONQER Sports' Kaz Endo believes each of their obstacle course racing event has been a learning experience for them, as they aim to improve their three-leg circuit every year.

Endo, who holds the unique position of being KONQER's chief experience officer, said they always review things after each of their three races—on Saipan, Guam, and Palau—to bring improvement to next year's event.

"There's always room for improvement and we aren't shy from admitting that. It's the only way to maintain success.

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JON PEREZ
DFS Team members slide down the final obstacle to complete last Saturday's KONQER Saipan at the Kilili Beach Park.